

# THE MILITANT

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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## March to defend Cuba is building on campuses

BY GREG McCARTAN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Supporters of a national demonstration slated here for November 12 are reaching out to young people and those involved in political protest actions, urging them to participate in the march and rally to demand an end to the U.S. government's embargo against Cuba.

"Hey! I know some people who would be really interested in this," a student at George Mason University in northern Virginia told a team of activists building the march on the campus. A leader of the Black Student Union at the campus said he would announce the march at the organization's next meeting and seek to organize those interested in attending.

One thousand students at the University of Maryland-Baltimore Campus turned out to hear writer Noam Chomsky November 1. During the discussion Chomsky was asked about Cuba and what people could do to oppose U.S. policy toward the country. "I was just handed a leaflet about a march in Washington November 12," the writer said, "and I encourage everyone to attend." After

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## Frame-up trial of miner in Canada begins

BY NED DMYTRYSHYN  
 AND SUSAN BERMAN

YELLOWKNIFE, Northwest Territories — The frame-up trial of unionist Roger Warren on nine counts of murder began here October 24. The trial has received national media coverage. Warren is a member of Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 2304, formerly Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers (CASAW) Local 4, which fought a successful 18-month strike against Royal Oak Mines that ended last December.

The gold miners beat back the company's attempt to slash safety inspections, discipline injured workers, roll back seniority rights, and cripple their union. Royal Oak hired replacement workers and used cops, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), and Pinkerton goons against the strike.

A centerpiece of the union-busting drive by Royal Oak owner Peggy Witte was the use of criminal charges to try to undermine support for the union and end the strike. On Sept. 18, 1992, an explosion at the mine killed nine replacement workers. Since that time the company, the RCMP and the big business media have been waging an intense frame-up campaign to blame the strikers for the explosion. Many miners in Yellowknife believe it was the company's criminal negligence around mining safety regulations that led to the blast.

"If there was any justice in the world, mine owner Peggy Witte would be on trial. They just want to blacken the name of the unions in this trial," explained Frank Mills. Mills was a striker at Royal Oak Mines until December 1993. He now is a member of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 802 at the nearby Con mine.

The prosecution's case hinges on a sup-

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## L.A. high school youth back immigrant rights

Thousands of students walk out in s. California

BY VANESSA KNAPTON  
 AND JOHN EVENHUIS

LOS ANGELES — Thousands of students from high schools and junior high schools across southern California walked out of classes in late October to protest Proposition 187, an anti-immigrant measure on the November ballot. Protests have also occurred in several Mexican border cities.

Proposition 187 would deny public education to hundreds of thousands of students, from kindergarten to college age, on the basis that they or their parents have not proven their legal residence status. It would also deny health care and social services to undocumented workers and their children. The measure would require teachers and health-care workers to turn in to immigration cops those "suspected" of being undocumented.

Student walkouts began before the October 16 immigrant rights march of 70,000, and then increased in number and size.

On Wednesday, October 19, some 200 students from El Camino Real High School and four schools in Los Angeles walked out of class. The next day, 300 students from two junior high schools in the town of Pacoima walked out of class. In Pasadena, 150 high school students left class and marched to City Hall.

School authorities and police have sought to intimidate student protesters. In Pomona, of the 100 Ganesha High School students who walked out, 70 were suspended.

On Friday, October 21, 50 students walked out of class in Paramount and marched to two nearby high schools where hundreds of other students joined them. As



Militant/William Hovland

Students in October 16 demonstration in Los Angeles protesting Proposition 187, which would bar undocumented immigrants from schools, hospitals, and services.

the march continued, growing to 400 protesters, they were confronted by police, who fired "stingballs, explosive devices that emit rubber pellets," the *Los Angeles Times* reported. No one was injured. One hundred student strikers in Costa Mesa marched down a street chanting, "Mexico, Mexico, Mexico" and "Viva la raza!" Students at El Camino Real marched again

October 21.

At San Fernando High School October 27, 300 students walked out of classes at 10:40 a.m. Organizers of the walkout said that a few days before, the local junior high school students had walked out and marched to the high school, banging on the windows encouraging the high school stu-

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## U.S., Cuban governments hold talks in Havana on immigration accord

BY GREG ROSENBERG

Representatives of the Cuban and U.S. governments held direct talks in Havana October 24-26. The meeting addressed the implementation of the agreement on immigration matters concluded in New York September 9.

Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba's National Assembly, led his government's delegation, as he had at the September talks. Washington's delegation was headed by Dennis Hays, chief of the U.S. State Department's Cuba desk.

The U.S. government agreed in September to grant a minimum of 20,000 residence visas a year to Cubans they deem eligible, in addition to those issued to Cubans with immediate family members in the United States. Washington also agreed to grant visas within one year to some 19,000 Cubans already on a list of approved immigrants, many of whom have been waiting for years.

In the past the U.S. government has systematically limited the issuance of residence visas to Cubans, while encouraging them to leave the island by boat or raft in an effort to portray the Cuban government as repressive. The agreement was reached

following a wave of emigration of Cubans, who were detained at sea by U.S. forces and incarcerated at the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and bases in Panama.

Alarcón said the talks achieved their basic objective in reviewing the implementation of the accords. Although Washington had insisted on limiting the meeting to the

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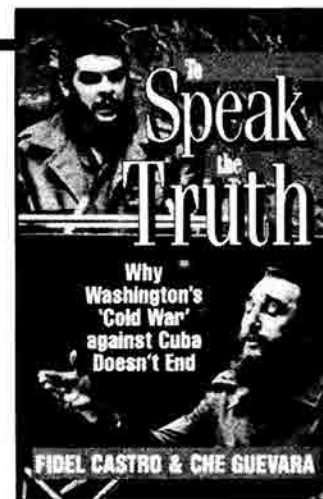
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## Elections in Mozambique

The government of Mozambique held elections October 26-29, the first since that country won independence from Portuguese rule in 1975. President Joaquim Chissano of the ruling Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo), was expected to win reelection, although the results have not yet been announced.

Afonso Dhlakama, head of the right-wing Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo), and the main presidential challenger, rejected the outcome of the elections, alleging fraud. He had previously called for a boycott but, in view of his group's relatively weak political standing, had reversed himself and cast his ballot. Renamo, initially sponsored by the white-supremacist regimes of Rhodesia and South Africa, waged a 19-year-long guerrilla war against the government, slaughtering hundreds of thousands of people and leaving the country devastated.

## Tokyo balks on nuke plant aid

Japan's finance minister, Masayoshi Takemura, said October 25 that European governments should partially finance the building of modern nuclear reactors for North Korea, arguing that Tokyo helped pay for the cleanup of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe in the former Soviet Union. Washington had previously won a general agreement that the Japanese and South Korean governments would underwrite most — about 90 percent, U.S. officials suggested — of a \$4 billion project to build the reactors, with smaller contributions from other countries.

Washington and the North Korean government signed an accord October 21 in which Pyongyang agreed to freeze its nuclear program in return for having the U.S. and other imperialist governments build two light-water reactors and provide oil until they are built.

## U.S. airpower in Gulf to double

In a threat aimed at Iraq, the Clinton administration announced October 27 it would nearly double the number of warplanes stationed indefinitely in the Persian Gulf, including for the first time in Kuwait. Washington is also negotiating with other regimes in the Gulf to take military equipment for ground forces. The United Nations



Voters line up in Nampula, Mozambique, October 27 to cast ballots in country's first election since winning independence from Portugal in 1975.

Security Council recently passed a resolution demanding Baghdad keep its Republican Guard troops north of the 32nd parallel, 150 miles north of the Kuwaiti border. This allows the Iraqi regime to keep regular army troops in that region. Since the Persian Gulf war, Washington had already imposed a "no-fly zone" there.

## General strike hits Malta

Malta's General Workers Union (GWU) organized a one-day general strike October 24, protesting the scheduled implementation of a value-added tax (VAT) in January. The union, which organizes 43,000 workers, paralyzed most of the country including public transportation, the airport, banks, docks, and several hotels and factories. Anglu Fenech, GWU secretary, said the union clearly enjoyed popular backing in its opposition to the regressive tax.

## Phone workers strike in Greece

Telephone workers in Greece called a 24-hour strike October 26 against plans to sell off 25 percent of the state-owned Hellenic Telecommunications company. The union has organized several consecutive 24-hour strikes against the government's privatization plans. The sell-off plan is expected to be approved in the Greek Parliament.

## Protest in Russia

The Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, the country's largest trade union, organized a national protest October 27 against unpaid back wages, unemployment, and deteriorating living standards. About 5,000 workers marched in the city of Khabarovsk, several carrying banners reading, "Government, give us work!"

and "Yeltsin, where is our pay?" Many workers have gone several months without a paycheck. Protesters around the country included miners, military industry workers, and fishermen, some of whom demanded the resignation of Russian president Boris Yeltsin. Union representatives circulated petitions among thousands of workers calling for Yeltsin to step down.

## Bonn to sell telephone system

The German government plans to sell the state-owned Deutsche Telekom, Europe's largest phone company. U.S. and British businessmen in particular are in stiff competition to be awarded the company, which could mean \$1 billion in banking fees.

Prospective owners have said they would lay off 20,000 out of Telekom's 240,000 employees. Last summer the company was paralyzed during a strike by unionists protesting the privatization plans.

## Argentine rightist runs for office

Lt.-Col. Aldo Rico, leader of the right-wing Dignity and Independence Movement (MODIN) in Argentina and participant in the military's dirty war of terror in the 1970s, launched his campaign for the May 14 presidential elections October 25. At a rally of 3,000 in Buenos Aires, Rico denounced both the Peronist ruling party and the liberal opposition Radical Party, which he labeled the "social-democratic alliance." MODIN uses anti-imperialist demagoguery to win support, demanding the return of the Malvinas Islands still occupied by British troops.

## Florida to deport before trial

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) chief Doris Meissner announced at an October 27 press conference that the agency, together with the Florida state government, would start a three-month pilot program to deport undocumented workers accused of misdemeanors or nonviolent felonies. The undocumented workers would have to agree not to return to the United States.

Thousands would be deported under this program, which flouts the right to be presumed innocent. Earlier this year, Florida became the first state government to deport immigrants who had been convicted of crimes. So far, 165 such immigrants have been deported.

## Killing by cops sparks protest

An 18-year-old Black youth was killed October 25 by police in Lexington, Kentucky. The incident prompted a march by 100 Black youths to the city council chambers demanding a meeting with the mayor and an explanation.

The youths stormed out of the office after the police chief read a statement calling the shooting accidental.

After leaving the city council, some of the angry youth threw rocks and bottles at the cops. In a retreat, the police chief announced October 27 that independent investigations would be conducted by the FBI and the county attorney's office.

## \$6.7 million awarded to aviator in sexual assault case

A federal court has awarded a total of \$6.7 million to former Navy lieutenant Paula Coughlin, who was among several dozen women sexually assaulted during a 1991 convention of the Tailhook Association.

The verdict in the seven-week trial ruled against the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel for failing to provide adequate security as previous conventions had turned into weekends of drunken debauchery by male officers.

—MAURICE WILLIAMS

## THE MILITANT

## Fight police brutality

From Decatur, Illinois, to Toronto, workers and youth have protested brutality by the cops, who use their clubs and guns to protect the profits of the employers and intimidate those fighting for their rights. Read about these struggles in the 'Militant.' Don't miss a single issue!



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Editor: GEORGE FYSON

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Business Manager: NAOMI CRAINE

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# Washington demands austerity in Haiti

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

As the U.S. military occupation of Haiti enters its seventh week, Washington is demanding that Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide rapidly enact economic measures designed to maximize profitable capitalist investments.

Officials from the Clinton administration, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) began laying out their economic plans for Haiti well before the September U.S. invasion and Aristide's return to the country the following month. According to the *New York Times*, the plan "reads like an IMF primer, calling for privatizing industry, slashing the budget deficit and bureaucracy, expanding education programs, removing most price controls and improving tax collection."

Aristide has agreed to cut the number of government employees from 45,000 to 23,000. An article in the *New York Village Voice* reports that, according to internal USAID documents, the Haitian government is planning to sell off the state-owned port authority, the telephone company, and the Port-au-Prince airport. In a move to encourage foreign trade, Aristide also says he will remove tariffs on most imports.

While these moves favor U.S. investors and some wealthy Haitians, working people in Haiti will see very little economic relief. More than two-thirds of the population is unemployed. Seventy-five percent of all children are undernourished, and annual per capita income has plunged by 25 percent in the last two years, to less than \$250.

In spite of this, USAID official Brian Atwood, rejected out of hand any idea of raising the minimum wage, which is currently \$1 a day. "I don't think that this economy is ready to consider such measures," he said.

Meanwhile, major U.S. corporations and the Haitian ruling class are anxiously awaiting their chance at the till. Aristide has approved a massive development project initiated by one of Haiti's ruling families. The project, the construction of an industrial park, will include building a 110-megawatt coal-fired power plant. The plant will be built by the Florida Power & Light Co. and will generate electricity for the entire country, replacing the national electricity system. The project will be financed by the World Bank and the installation of power lines will be done by Brown & Root, a large U.S. construction company.

On October 10, the first contingent of Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

departed for Port-au-Prince. They are the first of more than 100 RCMP officers who are being sent to help rebuild the Haitian police apparatus. One hundred Haitians have begun basic police training at the RCMP training academy in Regina, Saskatchewan. The Canadian cops join the more than 15,000 U.S. troops already occupying the island.

## Ottawa squabbles with Washington

Washington and Ottawa have clashed in recent weeks over who would lead the re-training operation. "There's confusion over who's doing what, whether they will overlap, who reports to whom, who is paying and whether, ultimately the U.S. will turn over authority to RCMP chief superintendent Neil Pouliot," a diplomat told the

*Toronto Star*.

Establishing a new police force is a high priority for both the U.S. and Canadian rulers since the old apparatus is completely discredited. An article in the November 1 *New York Times* noted that the remnants of the Haitian police are held in so much contempt in Port-au-Prince that even when they are simply directing traffic, most Haitians ignore them.

In many parts of the country the paramilitary thugs, or attachés, continue to try to terrorize the population, including helping to maintain the power of 565 section chiefs. The power of these rural magistrates to judge and brutalize anyone who is considered a troublemaker, is backed by the attachés.

In some places, Haitian peasants have

begun to resist the terror of the section chiefs. In a village near St. Raphaël, for example, scores of peasants killed two Haitian army soldiers on October 26 and chased off the section chief.

One thousands people demonstrated October 23 in Grand Goave in front of an orphanage run by the wife of a notorious Haitian army officer. The protesters were demanding that the officer be disarmed and removed from his post. U.S. Special Forces broke up the crowd.

Aristide has implored the section chiefs to "behave themselves" and has demanded that workers and peasants "use dialogue to avoid incidents."

Colin McKay from Toronto contributed to this article.

## Toronto marchers protest killing by cop

BY ROBERT SIMMS

TORONTO — Some 75 people rallied and marched to Metro Toronto police headquarters October 22 to protest the latest cop killing of a Black worker and to demand the two officers involved be prosecuted.

On September 29, police were searching a rooming house with several units when plainclothes officers entered Albert Moses' room. Police claim Moses swung a hammer at them, hitting one of the cops, before they gunned him down by shooting him in the face. Moses lived on life-support for 12 days before his death on October 11. Moses, who had worked as a baker since he came to Canada from Grenada 20-years ago, had a history of mental illness.

The two police officers are refusing to talk to the Special Investigations Unit, a police body that includes civilians. It was set up several years ago in the wake of a series of police killings of Blacks. It is supposed to investigate police actions that might be criminal.

"The police have told us nothing and all we hear are rumors that there might have been a problem with somebody else and that the police went to the wrong room," Marjory Moses, the victim's former wife told the press. "The men that came into his room were not wearing uniforms and maybe he didn't even realize they were police and was protecting himself. Why did they have to shoot him in the face?"

Moses's family rejected as slander police reports that Moses was in a crack (cocaine) house.

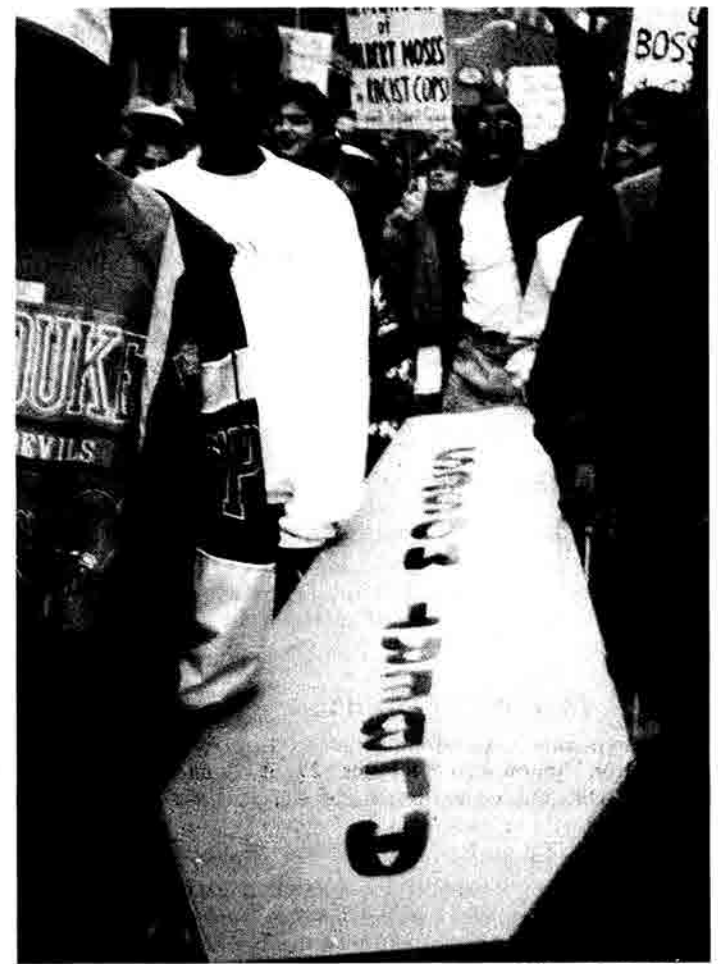
Robert Rotenberg, a lawyer representing the Moses family, told the rally that a full and open public inquiry into the death should be held.

Dudley Laws, leader of the Black Action Defense Committee, read out the long list of Blacks and workers who have been shot dead by Toronto-area cops in the past six years, including Lester Donaldson, Michael Wade Lawson, Raymond Lawrence, Luis Vega, and Domenic Sabatino.

Sue Goodin, a spokesperson for the Coalition of Psychiatric Survivors, told the marchers that it is unacceptable for police to treat people with mental illnesses as criminals. "I'm angry that police are shooting us instead of talking to us," she said. Lester Donaldson and Domenic Sabatino also had histories of mental illness.

John Steele, Communist League candidate for Toronto mayor, told the rally, "Now is the time for all opponents of police violence, supporters of democratic rights, unionists, antiracist fighters, students, and youth to demand that the cops who killed Moses be prosecuted under the criminal code and brought to justice. Responsibility for this killing lies not only with the cops who pulled the trigger," he said.

"Police Chief William McCormack, Susan Eng of the Police Services Board, Mayor June Rowlands, and Ontario premier Bob Rae all share responsibility for the fact that the police think they can act with impunity. Not one of them has con-



Militant/Colin McKay  
Demonstrators carry "coffin" at October 22 protest in Toronto bearing name of Albert Moses, murdered by cops.

demned the racist and anti-working class character of these police killings.

Dudley Laws, in his remarks to the rally, also defended comments made by Police Services Board member Arnold Minors, who is Black. Minors has said he understood why, following a recent shooting at an after hours club, every Black person approached by the cops refused to talk. "There is a long, thousand-year history of people not speaking to occupying armies," Minors said. An immediate hue and cry in the big business media called for Minors to be fired.

But Minors is right, Laws told the demonstrators. "The Toronto police are an occupying army."

## Coal miners strike in Chile

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Hundreds of striking coal miners in southern Chile scored a victory after occupying a pit half a mile underground for 12 days in mid-October. The miners were protesting dangerous working conditions and demanding wage increases, a pension plan, and jobs for laid-off miners.

Following a September 30 gas explosion that killed 24 miners, the workers occupied the Schwager coal mine, near the town of Coronel 300 miles south of the capital city of Santiago. "They hadn't measured the gas levels. The bosses aren't concerned about work safety. All they care about is their money," said union organizer Tania Sáez Leal in a phone interview from Coronel.

The deadly results of this negligence was the last straw for the miners after numerous employer assaults on their livelihood. On March 30, the company shut down the mine, only to reopen it the next day, rehiring some of the workers and refusing to recognize the union, a legally sanctioned practice.

Since March, the company has slashed the workforce from 2,500 to 700 miners, said Sáez Leal, who worked at the mine as a telephone operator until she was fired following the 1973 military coup that overthrew the government of Salvador Allende. "Before 1973 we were 7,000. Under the military dictatorship, many were fired, some murdered."

"They say Chile's economy is growing and breaking all economic records in the world, but here we're suffering the worst unemployment in a long time," Sáez Leal added. "Miners' take-home pay was barely

30,000 pesos a month," equivalent to \$75. "Bread costs 300 pesos a kilo, and kids don't even see milk."

Miners organized without an officially recognized union. They struck October 10 and several hundred workers refused to leave the mine. The company then cut off their phone lines to isolate them from the outside world.

"We had three demands," explained union spokesperson Sergio Alvarez in a phone interview. "We demanded that the government establish a pension plan for retired miners, relocate laid-off workers in state-owned companies, and meet with us and sign an agreement."

Miners traveled to Santiago to press their fight. "We asked Congress to support us. They came out against us," Sáez Leal said. Workers met with the interior minister in the presidential palace but the government turned down their demands.

While national union officials, who have signed "social peace" pacts, declined to support them, the strikers received an outpouring of support from working people throughout Chile and even other countries. Under pressure, the government finally signed an agreement.

"We won the relocation of 300 young miners; a wage increase to 75,000 pesos a month [US\$187] from 52,000 pesos; pensions of 39,000 pesos a month for older miners; and the right of all the workers to medical checkups," Alvarez reported. "We think this is a victory."

"It was a hard-fought fight," said Sáez Leal. "We never got on our knees and we made the authorities come down and meet with us."

## Canada students to protest cuts

BY CARLOS CORNEJO

MONTREAL — Students in Canada are mobilizing for a November 16 national demonstration in Ottawa against drastic cuts in education announced by the Canadian government as part of a series of austerity measures introduced October 6.

Under the banner of reducing the deficit, Ottawa plans to cut close to \$8 billion in unemployment insurance, welfare programs, and post-secondary education, hitting working people the hardest. This includes more than \$3 billion in cuts for post-secondary education. The university student population in Quebec has dropped every year since 1990, including 3 percent since last year as a result of a 150 percent increase in tuition.

Some 200 students protested against

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien October 13. This was the first action in Canada against Ottawa's austerity proposals.

Dozens of university student associations from the provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, and Ontario have responded to the call from the Students Federation of the University of Ottawa to organize the national November 16 demonstration.

In Montreal, students from several community colleges and universities have launched the Coalition for the Advancement of Student Conditions (CACÉ) and are building the November 16 demonstration.

Carlos Cornejo, a student at Collège de Maisonneuve in Montreal, is an activist in CACÉ and the Young Socialists.



# Pathfinder Fund 'a way to advance the struggle'

BY CHRIS HOEPFNER

"Socialist ideas are more important than ever," said Cuba solidarity activist Nora Benyardi to those attending a Pathfinder Fund rally in Philadelphia. Publishing books like the new edition of the *Bolivian Diary Of Che Guevara* is "one of the ways we can advance the struggles of our people," said Benyardi, a former political prisoner in Argentina.

Philadelphia supporters of the Pathfinder Fund collected some \$870 toward their goal in the last week.

Supporters of Pathfinder collected and sent in nearly \$12,000 this week, bringing the international total to \$79,223. With only two weeks left in the drive, some \$45,777 remains to be collected. The fund now stands at 64 percent of the international target. A special effort is necessary to reach the \$125,000 goal by the November 15 deadline. The final scoreboard will appear in the *Militant* printed on November 17.

Around the world, workers organizing support for the Fund are at the top of the chart in France, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, and Sweden.

## Broad panels at fund events

Fund events are increasingly drawing broader panels of speakers. In Salt Lake City, Utah, on October 29 the panelists included Malebo Mokone, a South African student; Harold Bauman, chairman of the Interfaith Peacemaking Resource Center; Greg Marcial, a reporter for the *Vencemos* newspaper; and Mac Warren, a National Committee member of the Socialist Workers Party and member of the United Steelworkers of America. The event boosted contributions to the fund from Salt Lake City to 89 percent of the local goal, which put supporters there on schedule going into the home stretch of the fund drive.

A Pathfinder Fund event in San Fran-

cisco on November 6 will feature Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the *Bolivian Diary*. Joining Waters on the speakers platform will be Miguel Angel, chair of Chicano Latino Studies at Laney College; Stephen Bush, a member of Transportation Communications Union Local 2508; Peter Reynolds, a member of United Auto Workers Local 2244; and Ved Dookhum, of the Young Socialists.

Supporters of the fund are planning to set up a booth at the San Francisco book-fair that day to promote Pathfinder titles and build participation at the rally.

Mary-Alice Waters will also be the featured speaker on November 5 at a fund event in Seattle. Lisa Ahlberg reports that Pathfinder book sales in Seattle during October were \$800, about four times the normal total. Much of the increase in sales is related to Cuba titles, including the *Bolivian Diary*.

## Discuss South Africa

Greg McCartan, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate from Virginia, gave a presentation at the recent Pathfinder Fund event in Miami entitled "The Class Struggle Intensifies in South Africa." The 30 participants contributed some \$744. Pathfinder supporters there raised their goal to \$3,000.

In the month of October, leading up to the fundraiser, they sold \$1,350 worth of Pathfinder literature — including 16 copies of the *Bolivian Diary*, 41 copies of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist* in English, Spanish, and French, 5 copies of *To Speak the Truth*, and signed up five new members to the Pathfinder Readers Club.

Building the November 12 march on Washington in defense of Cuba affords a big opportunity to sell Pathfinder literature and raise the needed funds to continue to produce the books that no other publisher will print.

## \$125,000 Pathfinder Fund

	Goal	Total Paid	Percent
<b>\$125,000</b>	\$1,000	\$657	66%
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Britain			
London		\$70	
Manchester		\$0	
Sheffield		\$105	
Canada	\$3,360		15%
Vancouver	\$500	\$253	51%
Toronto	\$1,430	\$137	10%
Montreal	\$1,430	\$120	8%
France	\$275	\$275	100%
Greece	\$100	\$0	
New Zealand	\$2,500		91%
Auckland	\$1,850	\$1,735	94%
Christchurch	\$550	\$417	76%
Wellington	\$100	\$119	119%
Puerto Rico	\$75	\$75	100%
Sweden	\$710	\$660	93%
United States			
Albuquerque	\$100	\$100	100%
Cincinnati	\$150	\$150	100%
Denver	\$100	\$100	100%
Salt Lake	\$5,000	\$4,435	89%
Brooklyn	\$8,000	\$6,792	85%
Philadelphia	\$8,000	\$6,527	82%
Atlanta	\$5,000	\$3,870	77%
Miami	\$3,000	\$2,178	73%
Pittsburgh	\$5,500	\$3,846	70%
Portland	\$150	\$100	67%
Los Angeles	\$8,500	\$5,640	66%
Birmingham	\$3,300	\$2,170	66%
Morgantown	\$2,175	\$1,425	66%
Detroit	\$5,000	\$3,235	65%
Des Moines	\$3,000	\$1,840	61%
Houston	\$3,250	\$1,980	61%
Newark	\$6,500	\$3,960	61%
St. Louis	\$3,300	\$1,990	60%
San Francisco	\$10,000	\$6,015	60%
Chicago	\$7,400	\$4,015	54%
Twin Cities	\$7,500	\$3,835	51%
Washington, DC	\$3,000	\$1,486	50%
New York	\$7,500	\$3,520	47%
Cleveland	\$3,500	\$1,435	41%
Greensboro	\$2,200	\$895	41%
Seattle	\$5,000	\$2,015	40%
Boston	\$5,000	\$930	19%
Peoria	\$750	\$100	13%
Edinboro	\$625		0%
Other		\$14	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	<b>\$79,221</b>	<b>63%</b>

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ I pledge ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Send contributions to Pathfinder, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014

# Attacks on Muslim youth in France spark debate

BY NAT LONDON

PARIS — French schools are continuing to expel students who insist on wearing the Islamic head scarf. Following an Education Ministry circular, local school administrations have expelled 25 students and similar measures are being undertaken against dozens of others. The Faidherbe high school in Lille has already expelled 17 students. The two daughters of the local Imam in the Paris suburb of Nanterre have been informed that they have been kicked out of the André-Doucet Junior High School.

Francois Bayrou, the minister of education, has announced that the threat of expulsion from school has reduced the number of students wearing scarves from 1,143 in September to 860. He also announced that while those who refuse to take off their

scarves will be expelled from school, they will be allowed to take correspondence courses to complete their education. The expulsions of students began after Bayrou issued a letter calling for schools to bar students wearing "conspicuous" symbols — particularly religious symbols.

Several local Islamic religious leaders have been expelled from France as part of this racist campaign conducted under the banner of separation of church and state, including the Imams from Boulogne-sur-Mer on the North Sea and from Woippy in the highly industrialized Moselle region.

Abdelali Hamdoune, the 28-year-old Imam from Woippy, had lived in France for 10 years. He was recently arrested in front of his home at 6:30 a.m. and taken directly to the airport where he was put on a plane for Casablanca, Morocco. There

was no trial, as the government invoked a state of "absolute urgency," saying that Hamdoune represented a threat to "state and public security."

His wife, a French citizen of Algerian origin, says she does not understand why Hamdoune was expelled. She denies the accusation that her husband had urged young Muslim women to wear the Islamic scarf in school.

Government officials and politicians have been warning that France is in danger of falling under the influence of Islamic fundamentalism. "Foreigners arriving in France must understand," says Claude Barreau, former head of the Office of International Migrations and now one of French interior minister Charles Pasqua's advisors, "that henceforth their ancestors are the Gauls. They have a new fatherland. Islam has a place in France provided it is willing to stay as discreet as the other religions. But the Islamists are coming as colonizers."

## Ban sparks protests, debate

At Goussainville near Paris, where there have been demonstrations to defend four young women who have refused to take off their scarves, students point out that teachers have been generally hostile to their movement. "Of 89 teachers at our school, only 12 are for the reintegration of the four girls. Sixty-seven teachers signed a declaration backing the school principal," said one.

Teachers throughout France, including union members, have been heatedly discussing the question of "the scarf." For Roger, a teacher at a vocational high school in a Paris suburb who did not want to use his last name, the main question is the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, particularly in Algeria. Roger, who is French, has taken part in numerous antiracist actions and he supported the students in his school who took part in last March's massive demonstrations, which defeated the government's plans for a subminimum youth wage.

"I know the French government has not

been a friend of Algeria's workers and peasants," he says. "The French army killed 1.5 million Algerians, more than 10 percent of the total population, during the Algerian war for independence. But the Islamic groups there have been killing hundreds of intellectuals, teachers, artists, and singers. They have even killed girls who refused to wear the headscarf to school. The scarf is being used by these same movements to spread their influence in France."

Roger, however, hesitates about expelling the students who wear the scarf from school. "The other teachers at my school are all against the scarf but those that support the idea of expelling students from school for wearing one are still in the minority."

Teachers are not the only ones effected by the government's offensive. When three women were expelled from a school in Creil for wearing Islamic scarves in the first such incident in 1989, the well-known organization SOS-Racisme defended the students, calling for "respect for cultural differences". The courts later over-ruled that expulsion order.

Now, however, SOS is calling for the government to go even further and pass a law banning the wearing of all religious symbols, including crosses and Jewish stars. One of the founders of SOS-Racisme, Julien Dray, now a Socialist Party parliamentary deputy, said that "the generous attitude of 1989 is no longer possible... It's no longer a question of a few isolated scarves. Educational institutions have to defend themselves from an organized and conquering Islamic movement."

SOS-Racisme was once a mass organization that had organized numerous large demonstrations against racism. During the period of the Socialist Party government, it had received large subsidies from the ministries of education and of culture. These have been cut off when the present administration of Edouard Balladur was elected in 1992. The organization has lost most of the support it once had among young people.

## THE CHANGING FACE OF U.S. POLITICS

Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions

BY JACK BARNES

A handbook for workers coming into the factories, mines, and mills, as they react to the uncertain life, ceaseless turmoil, and brutality that will accompany the arrival of the twenty-first century. It shows how millions of workers, as political resistance grows, will revolutionize themselves, their unions, and all of society. 459 pp., \$19.95



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Fax: (212) 727-0150. If ordering by mail, please add \$3.00 to cover postage and handling.



## WHERE WE STAND end of week eight

SOLD 64 %

SHOULD BE 73%

## Use 'Militant' to build march

BY SARA LOBMAN

"I'll get a subscription to this paper," a coworker told Cecelia Moriarity after carefully studying the *Militant* for a while. Earlier, the two airline workers in Boston had been discussing the capitalist economic depression as well as the Cuban revolution. Similar exchanges are occurring in numerous factories, campuses, and working-class communities in dozens of cities, as distributors of the *Militant* wage an international campaign to broaden the circulation of this paper, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International*.

To make it possible to introduce more working people and youth to the socialist press, use the paper in the biggest way possible in activities against Washington's aggression against Cuba before and after the November 12 demonstration in Washington, D.C., and organize several national teams to build on the 1994 Socialist Workers election campaigns, the *Militant* is extending the international circulation campaign by one week. Supporters of these publications in cities around the world report that the extra time and effort is necessary to successfully meet their goals for the drive.

Hundreds of *Militant* supporters will be joining others on buses and car caravans to go to the November 12 demonstration. Willie Mae Reid, a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union from Houston, has volunteered to stay on the east coast for a few extra days to be part of a national team.

Readers who are able to add their names to the list of volunteers available for teams anytime between now and November 22 should contact the *Militant*.

Encouraged by their successes, distributors in Seattle faxed in a



Socialist campaigners selling the *Militant* in Syracuse, New York.

note raising their *Militant* goal to 90, an increase of 10 subscriptions. They also raised their *Perspectiva Mundial* goal to 15. With an extra week in the drive, distributors in cities that are on or ahead of schedule should consider following their lead. This will help close the gap between local goals for the *Militant*, which add up to 3,232 subscriptions, and the international goal of 3,300.

Sales in Canada got a boost from a four-day sales and reporting team to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, to cover the frame-up trial of miner Roger Warren. "The team met with an enthusiastic response," Susan Berman and Ned Dmytryshyn report. "Fourteen subscriptions to the *Militant* were sold and one copy of *New International*. We talked to many of the miners about the Cuban revolution," they added.

Several compared their fight to stand up to Royal Oak Mine to the Cubans' fight against the U.S. government. Others disagreed with the *Militant's* support for the Cuban revolution, but were interested in learning more.

A sales team in the Appalachian

coal fields, jointly organized by distributors in Pittsburgh and in Morgantown, West Virginia, to take place during the international target week, is off to a good start. Dennis Richter called in to say that five people have purchased *Militant* subscriptions and 86 others bought single copies of the paper from the team to date.

Ruth Nebbia reports that four workers at the Monfort meat-packing plant in Marshalltown, Iowa, bought subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* from a Saturday afternoon socialist campaign team at their factory gate. Mike Galati, the socialist candidate for governor of Iowa, works in the plant.

"Organizing to systematically call people whose subscriptions have recently expired or who only have one or two issues left is starting to pay off," Kip Hedges reports from St. Paul, Minnesota. "So far, five readers have asked to renew their subscriptions."

Dan Fein, from Salt Lake City, Utah, notes that door-to-door sales have helped push supporters in that city toward the top of the chart. "Last Saturday we sold eight subscriptions — five to the *Militant* and three to *Perspectiva Mundial* — in two working-class neighborhoods on the west side of town," he said. "We also sold two *Militant* subscriptions to participants in a meeting for Bernardo Toscano, from the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C."

With only three more weeks in the drive, its important that distributors in each city send subscriptions to the business office promptly and fax in weekly reports on sales of *New International*. The final scoreboard will be printed in the issue of the *Militant* published on Wednesday, November 23.

All subscriptions will be counted that arrive in the business office by 12 noon on Tuesday, October 22 EST.

	Militant		Perspectiva Mundial		New International	
	sold	goal	sold	goal	sold	goal
Belgium	2	2 100%	0	2	0	1
France	4	4 100%	2	5	12	20
Greece	9	11 82%	0	1	3	6
Sweden	30	40 75%	16	20	17	18
Canada						
Vancouver	66	75 88%	10	10	14	20
Toronto	63	90 70%	9	17	24	40
Montreal	48	80 60%	13	25	24	45
Canada total	177	245 72%	32	52	26	105
Iceland	9	13 69%	0	1	3	4
New Zealand						
Wellington*	11	10 110%	0	0	1	4
Auckland	50	75 67%	4	5	9	30
Christchurch	21	35 60%	1	1	4	8
NZ total	82	120 68%	5	6	14	42
Australia	23	35 66%	2	8	8	18
United States						
Portland, OR	4	2 200%	0	1	0	2
Cincinnati, OH*	19	13 146%	2	2	0	4
Albany, NY	12	10 120%	1	1	1	3
Denver, CO	5	5 100%	1	3	0	2
Hartford, CT	5	5 100%	0	1	0	4
Houston*	63	70 90%	9	12	13	16
Salt Lake City, UT	94	110 85%	9	16	23	35
New Haven, CT	8	10 80%	1	2	3	8
Seattle*	69	90 77%	13	15	15	23
Boston	87	115 76%	27	36	25	52
Twin Cities, MN*	102	135 76%	5	17	11	35
Cleveland	66	95 69%	12	16	8	20
Des Moines, IA	58	85 68%	19	36	8	35
Los Angeles	155	230 67%	75	101	45	105
Philadelphia	77	115 67%	14	30	14	47
Greensboro, NC	43	65 66%	4	4	7	15
San Francisco	99	150 66%	23	42	19	70
Washington, D.C.	54	85 64%	24	30	21	35
Detroit, MI	63	100 63%	6	11	7	27
Pittsburgh	65	105 62%	8	12	11	26
Morgantown, WV	24	40 60%	0	1	0	17
Miami	71	120 59%	36	55	52	70
Peoria, IL	17	30 57%	0	2	2	10
Birmingham, AL	42	75 56%	1	5	1	15
Atlanta	53	105 50%	9	15	12	25
Brooklyn	55	110 50%	24	36	38	65
Edinboro, PA	3	6 50%	0	1	1	3
St. Louis	45	80 48%	5	6	4	22
New York	67	145 46%	19	40	24	70
Albuquerque, NM	3	7 43%	0	2	0	2
Chicago	61	145 42%	14	32	2	50
Newark, NJ	55	140 39%	14	35	10	50
Ft. Madison, IA	0	2 0%	0	1	1	2
U.S. total	1644	2600 63%	375	619	378	965
Puerto Rico*	1	2 50%	7	10	4	6
Britain						
London	44	70 63%	1	3	5	37
Sheffield	22	40 55%	0	1	0	14
Manchester	24	50 48%	0	3	2	20
Britain total	90	160 56%	1	7	7	71
TOTAL	2071	3232 64%	440	731	472	1256
SHOULD BE	2409	3300 73%	511	700	913	1,250
IN THE UNIONS						
AUSTRALIA						
FPU	2	3 67%	0	1	1	2
AWU	1	3 33%	0	0	0	1
BRITAIN						
TGWU	2	7 29%	0	0	0	0
RMT	4	22 18%	0	0	0	0
AEU	0	6 0%	0	0	0	0
NUM	0	2 0%	0	0	0	0
Britain Total	6	37 16%	0	0	0	0
CANADA						
CAW	11	12 92%	1	0	2	1
USWA	8	12 67%	0	2	0	3
IAM	8	18 44%	2	1	0	1
ACTWU	1	2 50%	0	3	0	7
CEP	1	5 20%	0	1	0	3
Canada total	27	46 59%	3	7	2	15
NEW ZEALAND						
UFBGWU	2	5 40%	0	0	0	1
MWU	2	4 50%	0	0	0	1
EU	2	6 33%	0	1	0	1
N.Z. Total	5	15 33%	0	1	0	3
SWEDEN						
Food workers	1	3 33%	0	0	0	2
Metal workers	0	2 0%	0	0	0	2
Sweden Total	1	5 20%	0	0	0	4
UNITED STATES						
UFCW	16	15 107%	18	17	4	5
UTU	73	85 86%	1	10	0	25
OCAW	33	65 51%	3	5	3	27
UAW	80	135 59%	5	15	0	30
IAM	48	80 60%	7	3	4	14
USWA	25	87 29%	1	3	1	19
ILGWU	8	20 40%	14	20	2	15
ACTWU	9	25 36%	7	11	0	14
UMWA	6					
U.S. Total	167	512 33%	56	84	14	149
*raised goal						

ACTWU-Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; AEEU-Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Workers Union; AFMEU-Automotive, Food, Metals and Engineering Union; CAW-Canadian Auto Workers; EU-Engineers Union; FPU-Food Preservers' Union; IAM-International Association of Machinists; ILGWU-International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; MWU-Meat Workers Union; NUM-National Union of Mineworkers; NUW-Union of Workers; OCAW-Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT-National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers; TGWU-Transport and General Workers Union; UAW-United Auto Workers; UFBGWU-United Food, Beverage and General Workers Union; UFCW-United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA-United Mine Workers of America; USWA-United Steelworkers of America; UTU-United Transportation Union.

## Cuba book campaign close to goal

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Defenders of the Cuban revolution who are campaigning to pro-

BOOKS SOLD		
City	Goal	Sold
Atlanta	20	21
Birmingham	15	11
Boston*	30	26
Brooklyn*	50	45
Chicago	30	10
Cleveland	20	18
Des Moines	20	20
Detroit	18	12
Greensboro	10	14
Houston*	20	17
Los Angeles*	50	51
Miami*	30	23
Morgantown	10	10
New York*	50	47
Newark	30	24
Peoria	10	1
Philadelphia*	22	21
Pittsburgh	20	9
Salt Lake City	20	11
San Francisco*	42	36
Seattle*	30	25
St. Louis	12	11
Twin Cities	25	20
Washington D.C.	20	15
France	2	1
Auckland*	14	11
Christchurch	5	3
Iceland		2
Sydney	10	6
Toronto	20	14
Montreal	10	9
Vancouver*	18	18
Total	683	562
Unions		
ACTWU	8	2
IAM	40	12
ILGWU	10	2
OCAW	29	15
UAW	35	16
UFCW	6	2
USWA	20	13
UTU	35	24
*raised goal		

mote the Pathfinder book *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End* are closing in on the goal to sell 600 copies. So far 562 books have been sold to workers in factories, strikers on the picket lines, youth on college campuses, and at community events.

Ned Dmytryshyn, a member of the International Association of Machinists, and Susan Berman, a member of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) union, went to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, in Canada where they talked to miners involved in defending fellow unionists at a frame-up trial.

Fred Kempt, president of the area council United Steelworkers of America (USWA) and a miner at the Miramar gold mine, bought a subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of *To Speak the Truth*. He told Dmytryshyn, "I like Cuba. Cuba has stood up to the U.S. government for a long time. It's like CASAW [Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers] standing up to Royal Oak."

CASAW went on strike against the Royal Oak gold mine in 1992-93. Tim Bettger, who was a striker at the Royal Oak mine, renewed his subscription to the *Militant* and bought a copy of *To Speak the Truth*.

Bettger is fighting trumped up charges and is out on bail with se-

vere restrictions on his democratic rights. Bettger commented, "I've always liked Cuba. When you stand up for justice you're going to get flak. This is what Cuba faces." Bettger told Berman and Dmytryshyn that he wanted to learn more about revolutionary Cuba and its resistance to Washington, and that he hoped to visit Cuba.

Another former striker bought a copy of *To Speak the Truth* along with a subscription to the *Militant*. He is a member of CAW Local 2304, which now represents workers at the Royal Oak mine.

Abby Tilsner, a campaigner for the Socialist Workers candidates in New York, reports, "We set up a book table at State University of New York at Buffalo. One student who belongs to a Latino fraternity saw the table and was so enthralled he went and brought back five friends. He said he loved Che Guevara, whose speeches are printed in *To Speak the Truth*. He bought a copy of the book while one of his friends bought a copy, plus a copy of *The Bolivian Diary of Che Guevara*."

Dmytryshyn reports the collection of Castro and Guevara speeches sold steadily in Vancouver over the past weeks. With only 38 copies to go in the campaign to sell 600 copies of *To Speak the Truth*, the campaign can now go over the goal by November 12.



# British gov't to talk with Irish Sinn Fein

BY RICH PALSER

LONDON — Prime Minister John Major announced in Belfast, Northern Ireland, October 21 that the British government would open talks with the Irish nationalist party Sinn Fein before Christmas.

In a speech to 200 businessmen, Major noted that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) had maintained the cease-fire it declared August 31. He also lifted the exclusion orders banning Sinn Fein leaders Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness from entering England, Wales, or Scotland, and announced that all border crossings between Northern Ireland and the Republic will be reopened.

One week earlier, the Combined Loyalist Military Command had announced its decision to "cease all operational hostilities." This umbrella group of rightist, pro-British paramilitary groups is made up of the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), Ulster Defence Association, and Red Hand Commando.

UVF member Gusti Spence, a convicted murderer who served 19 years in prison for the 1966 killing of two young Catholics, read the Loyalists' statement to the press. Since the high point of the civil rights movement in 1969, in which thousands of Catholic working people in Northern Ireland took to the streets to demand an end to discrimination, the UVF and other rightist organizations have been responsible for the murder of 900 Catholics and countless maimings. Since 1991, they have murdered an average of 40 people a year.

The announcement of talks and the cease-fires reflect the fact that the British rulers have been unable, despite massive repression and the fostering of divisions of working people who are Catholic and

Protestant, to crush the resistance to British government presence. They cannot stabilize the political situation in Northern Ireland while excluding Sinn Fein from the talks. British capitalists are looking for ways to reorganize capitalist domination in Ireland and lower the huge political and economic costs their military occupation has entailed.

Major accompanied his announcement of talks with Sinn Fein with a promise of a referendum on any negotiated settlement of the conflict in Northern Ireland. As a result, a threatened revolt by Unionist forces — those in Northern Ireland who advocate continued British rule — at a Conservative Party (Tory) conference never materialized.

The inclusion of Sinn Fein in the three-way talks between London, the government of Irish prime minister Albert Reynolds, and parties in Northern Ireland opens the way to a planned summit between Major and Reynolds in November, followed by the publication of a joint "framework document." The document will reportedly include a new power-sharing executive body and an elected assembly in Northern Ireland, cross-border bodies to regulate services such as tourism and transport, and an oversight role for the two governments. The proposals would be subject to separate referendums in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The day before Major's Belfast speech, the Northern Ireland Confederation of British Industry together with the Irish Business and Employers Confederation proposed creating "an economic corridor between Belfast and Dublin" to foster business throughout Ireland. Among other things, they proposed lowering telephone



British troops in Northern Ireland. Despite decades-long military occupation, the British government has been unable to crush resistance to its rule.

charges between north and south, upgrading rail and road links, and more collaboration between the two business associations to attract international investment.

Meanwhile, British troops maintain their occupation of Northern Ireland. As yet the only change to their presence in the areas dominated by nationalist forces is that combat helmets have been replaced by berets. Laws giving authorities the power to detain people without trial, and allowing for juryless courts, remain in force. The

law under which Sinn Fein leaders were banned from Britain, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, also remains in effect.

Irish foreign minister Dick Spring has indicated that Dublin intends to review the emergency powers still operating in southern Ireland. Dublin is also establishing a Forum for Peace and Reconciliation involving all the parties in the Republic of Ireland, as well as Sinn Fein, the Social Democratic and Labour Party, and the Alliance Party from Northern Ireland.

## -YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD

### YS leader talks on socialism in Australia, New Zealand

This column is written and edited by the Young Socialists, an international organization of young workers, students, and other youth fighting for socialism. For more information about the YS or to join write: Young Socialists, P.O. Box 2396, New York, NY 10009, or call (212) 475-6482.

BY NATHAN SIMMS

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — Rebecca Gettleman, a Young Socialist and member of the United Transportation Union from San Francisco, has been touring Australia and New Zealand as part of an international effort to recruit new members to the growing international socialist youth organization.

Gettleman's first stop was Sydney, Australia, where she spent a week speaking with workers and young people at factory gates and on high school and college campuses. She participated in the first Sydney Young Socialists educational class on the *Communist Manifesto*. The meeting was attended by three new members of the Young Socialists and a 16-year-old high school student who started reading the *Militant* 18 months ago. Topics discussed included the organization of work under a socialist system and advancements in human creativity in a revolutionary society.

Later that day, Gettleman spoke at a

Militant Labor Forum on "Youth and the *Communist Manifesto*." Discussion on campuses at the University of New South Wales and Sydney University included questions like "How can justice be achieved for all humanity?" and "Is greed a reflection of human nature or an affliction of class society?" Other discussions included the history of the Cuban revolution, the downfall of the Stalinist regimes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, the role the working class plays in transforming society, and whether socialism is a viable form of human organization.

#### Interest in Cuban revolution

Steve Lawrence, a new Young Socialists member, explained that he joined "because of the fundamental inequalities that are part of the baggage of the market system." He is currently reading the recently published *Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara*. "I want to visit Cuba — it's inspiring. I really want to assess it for myself," Lawrence explained. From the time spent on the campuses, six people signed up for more information about Young Socialists activities. Six youths wrote in with questions about communism, including an inquiry about joining the Young Socialists.

Gettleman and another member of the Young Socialists also met and talked with Jade, a 17-year-old high school student, about the fight for women's liberation, Marxism, the Cuban revolution, and fascism. The discussion took place just prior to a "Reclaim the Night" march, which was organized to protest violence against women. The organizers of the march did not allow men to participate in the event, asking them instead to stand on the sidelines. The Young Socialists and the high school student agreed that this was not the best way forward in the fight to defend women's rights, and that women's liberation cannot be achieved by only half the population participating in that struggle.

#### Rally to support Timorese struggle

One of the upcoming political actions in Sydney that the Young Socialists is building is the "Free East Timor!" rally on November 12. This is the anniversary of the Indonesian army's attack on a funeral march of thousands of Timorese protesters in 1991 in which more than 200 people died. The annual demonstration protests Indonesia's occupation of East Timor and

the Australian government's complicity and military ties with the Indonesian regime. The Young Socialists will take part in the action and hold an open house at the Pathfinder bookstore following the protest.

Gettleman's tour in Christchurch has included a live interview on a local television news program and a Militant Labor Forum at the Pathfinder bookstore here. In response to a question suggesting the lines between capitalism and socialism had become blurred in the last decade, she pointed out that the distinction is, in fact, clearer because many people have begun to realize the regimes in Eastern Europe were not communist.

When asked whether she thought that condemning U.S. imperialism was dividing the world into "goodies and baddies," she responded that socialists oppose all forms of imperialism and capitalism, wherever they exist worldwide. Gettleman also pointed to the victories working people can achieve by organizing and fighting against the bosses' offensives, as demonstrated by the successful four-day strike by General Motors workers in Flint, Michigan.

Among those attending the Militant Labor Forum addressed by Gettleman here were five high school students. The forum focused on the imperialist moves against Iraq, Haiti, and Cuba, and the resulting protests by youth and working people in many cities around the world, out of which the Young Socialists was founded and is being forged. Gettleman invited those present to join the international youth brigade to Cuba this January being organized by the Young Socialists.

The remainder of Gettleman's visit to Christchurch includes an interview on a campus radio station and a talk at a local high school. She then travels to Wellington, New Zealand, where she will speak at a Militant Labor Forum and be interviewed by a local newspaper. Her final stop is Auckland, where she will speak at three high schools, to a high school student group called "Green Team" that is affiliated with Greenpeace, two public campus meetings, and a Militant Labor Forum.

Nathan Simms is a student and member of the Young Socialists in Christchurch. Marnie Kennedy in Sydney, a member of the Automotive, Food, Metals and Engineering Union and of the Young Socialists, contributed to this week's column.

### Young Socialists Travel Fund

The Young Socialists are embarking on an international campaign to defend the Cuban revolution, building an international youth brigade to Cuba, attending a World Solidarity Conference in Havana, sending two YS leaders on a speaking tour of Cuba hosted by the Union of Young Communists, sending a representative to an African National Congress conference in South Africa, and sending YS representatives to Canada, Iceland, Sweden, Australia, and New Zealand.

To carry this out the YS has launched a \$16,000 international travel fund. Send your contributions to the Young Socialists, P.O. Box 2396, New York, NY, 10009.

AREA	GOALS	COLLECTED
<b>UNITED STATES</b>		
Alton/		
Bloomington, IN	\$100	
Atlanta	\$100	
Birmingham, AL	\$500	
Boston	\$400	
Cleveland	\$400	
Chicago	\$550	
Detroit	\$400	
Evansville, IN	\$50	
Edinboro, PA	\$50	
Greensboro, NC	\$75	
Los Angeles	\$1,200	
Maryland	\$50	
Miami	\$200	
Morgantown, WV	\$150	
Newark, NJ	\$400	
New York	\$1,200	
Philadelphia	\$800	
Pittsburgh	\$500	
Salt Lake City, UT	\$950	
San Francisco	\$1,000	
Seattle	\$700	
Tampa Bay, FL	\$50	
Twin Cities, MN	\$1,000	
Washington, D.C.	\$500	
Yellow Springs, OH	\$100	
<b>CANADA</b>		
Montreal	\$250	
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>		
Sydney		\$350
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,000</b>	<b>\$350</b>

#### FOR FURTHER READING

IN NEW INTERNATIONAL NO. 7

#### Opening Guns of World War III

Washington's Assault on Iraq

by JACK BARNES

The U.S. government's murderous assault on Iraq heralded increasingly sharp conflicts among imperialist powers, the rise of rightist and fascist forces, growing instability of international capitalism, and more wars. This issue also includes "Communist Policy in Wartime as well as in Peacetime" by Mary-Alice Waters.

\$12.00

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Fax (212) 727-0150. If ordering by mail, please add \$3.00 to cover postage and handling.



# N.Y. mayor plans to slash city services

BY ANDY BUCHANAN

NEW YORK — Mayor Rudolph Giuliani announced plans to eliminate \$800 million from the city budget October 25. These cuts follow reductions of \$1.1 billion approved by the city council last July. The measure greatly reduces spending for social services used by working people in the city.

The new round of cuts will take \$190 million from the education budget and \$103 million from social services, including the proposed elimination of a city program to support private agencies operating soup kitchens.

Without this funding, many soup kitchens for impoverished workers will close. Projected cuts in the funding of the City University of New York (CUNY) will result in admissions cutbacks, layoffs, and tuition increases. The cuts will be concentrated on CUNY's six community colleges, where many young workers study.

Planned cuts in city spending for public hospitals and clinics will result in layoffs of an estimated 3,000 hospital workers. The day before unveiling these cuts, the Giuliani administration announced it had reached agreement with officials of municipal workers unions that will result in 7,600 layoffs. In addition, the administration laid out plans to ax \$190 million in health-care costs for city workers.

Stanley Hill, executive director of District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, defended the agreement on cuts in health costs as a way of supposedly preventing even deeper reductions in the workforce.

These budget cuts, made in the name of balancing the budget and establishing "fiscal stability," are part of a broader government drive against the conditions of working people in New York. An agreement reached between the city and officials of the sanitation workers union in mid-September will result in workers working faster and putting in longer days.

## Harassing street vendors, unemployed

Under the banner of improving the "quality of life" and "fighting crime," the Giuliani administration is cracking down on street vendors, unemployed workers who clean car windshields, and graffiti artists. In the past two weeks, an army of 500 cops evicted 1,000 street traders from Harlem's 125th Street, forcing them to rent space at an out of the way parking lot instead.

The city administration is also floating a proposal for the widespread introduction of "workfare," forcing workers on welfare to work at minimum or sub-minimum wages.

The same day that Giuliani announced the layoffs, he held a press conference to announce his decision to endorse incumbent Democratic candidate Mario Cuomo in the governor's race. Giuliani's endorse-

ment helped boost Cuomo's sagging poll ratings, putting him back in front of Republican contender George Pataki.

In an interview, auto worker Mary Nell Bockman, the Socialist Workers candidate for lieutenant governor, said, "From the start of the campaign we've been pointing to the fact that the candidates of both parties of big business, the Democrats and Republicans, are leading the charge against the living standards and rights of working people, reflecting the completely bipartisan nature of this assault."

"The liberal Democrat Mario Cuomo advances the same political perspective as Republican Rudolph Giuliani. Both favor 'balancing' government budgets to give priority to the wealthy bond holders at the expense of working people," the socialist candidate said.

"Both Cuomo and Giuliani are pushing to make working people pay for the crisis of the capitalist system by driving through deep cuts in social services, slashing welfare, and laying off workers. Cuomo's campaign to gut welfare and 'crack down



New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Governor Mario Cuomo are united in their drive to cut social services, gut welfare, and unleash more cops on working people.

on crime' is one indication of the rightward shift of capitalist politics.

In contrast, the Socialist Workers candidates point to a working-class solution: to fight for jobs for all by reducing the work-

week with no loss of pay, to enforce affirmative action, and to fight together with fellow working people abroad by demanding the cancellation of the Third World debt."

## N.Y. socialist candidates defend Cuba

BY ABBY TILSNER

NEW YORK — "I really agree with that sign," said a man passing by a Socialist Workers campaign table here October 31, pointing to a placard that read, "U.S. hands off socialist Cuba!"

He wasn't alone. Supporters of the socialist campaign are putting defense of the Cuban revolution at the center of their work across New York State, at street tables, campuses, and factory gates. Part of this has been a push to build participation in the November 12 march on Washington, D.C., to oppose the U.S. government's aggression against Cuba.

Dozens of students on campuses in New York City, Syracuse, Buffalo, and elsewhere in the state have told socialist campaigners they are interested in going to the demonstration. Members of Latinos Unidos at the State University of New York (SUNY) in Purchase, for example, are hosting a November 2 meeting for Jack Willey, a leader of the Young Socialists, to speak about Cuba and urge students there to go to Washington.

A member of La Lucha, a Latino student organization at Syracuse University, immediately hung a poster for the march in her group's office. She and other students there were also interested in the international youth brigade that will be going to Cuba in January. Two workers in Syracuse, one from a nursing home and another from a hospital, decided to subscribe to the *Militant* at the campaign table there to learn more about Cuba.

Three of the Socialist Workers candidates — Larry Lane for governor, Naomi Craine for U.S. Senate, and Brock

Satter for comptroller — participated in an October 31 protest in Queens, New York, demanding justice in the killing of Jason Nichols, a young Black man, by police.

In a televised debate with the other gubernatorial candidates in Buffalo October 27, Lane had blasted his opponents' support for attacks on democratic rights in the name of fighting crime. He pointed to cases of police brutality and to the slaughter of 200,000 Iraqis in the Gulf war as some of the biggest crimes. "Capitalism is what breeds crime," Lane said. "It creates the mentality of 'any deed for greed.'" Lane will participate in another debate November 3 in Rochester, New York.

Two days later, socialist campaigners

protested Craine's exclusion from a televised senatorial debate at Syracuse University between the Democratic incumbent Daniel Moynihan and Republican contender Bernadette Castro. "This is an attack on the democratic rights of all," said a statement issued by the Socialist Workers candidate and distributed to reporters and students attending the debate.

The socialist candidates' schedule is filling up fast for the last week of the campaign. A high school government teacher in Skaneateles, near Syracuse, invited the candidates to come to his class. Some of the students there have been campaigning for the Socialist Workers candidates in their mock election.



## PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

Michael Baumann

**Pathfinder Press, located in New York with distributors in Britain, Canada, and Australia, publishes books and pamphlets by revolutionary fighters whose struggles against capitalism, racism, and all forms of exploitation and oppression point the way forward for humanity.**

More than 2,000 copies of the *Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara* have been shipped to bookstores and wholesalers internationally, in preparation for the November 15 publication date, reports Maggie Pucci, who is heading promotion of the new Pathfinder title. An ambitious effort has been mapped out to bring the book — a completely new edition of Guevara's classic work — to the attention of workers and youth, both directly and through promotional work aimed at bookstore buyers, reviewers, and the press.

"Pathfinder supporters around the world are key to this effort," Pucci said. "Reprinting the introduction by Mary-Alice Waters in the *Militant* gave supporters a head start in promoting the book in Pathfinder bookstores, at workplaces, and at tables on campuses and streets." The next step is to introduce the book to activists and others who take part in actions in defense of the Cuban revolution, including the demonstration scheduled for November 12 in Washington, D.C.

"We have a couple of very attractive pieces of promotional material in the works," Pucci noted. A full-color poster reproducing the cover, as well as a brochure featuring the *Diary* and other new titles will soon be available. In addition, a press packet is going out to more than 300 newspapers and periodicals,

from Seattle to Johannesburg.

Pathfinder supporters from London and Stockholm who took part in the Frankfurt book fair, the largest in the world, reported the October 5-10 event in Germany was an opportunity to meet participants from parts of the world where Pathfinder titles are not widely distributed. Meetings were held with commercial book buyers from Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and northern Africa.

Pathfinder also took part in a book fair in Gothenburg, Sweden, October 27-30, and plans to participate in fairs in Guadalajara, Mexico, November 26-December 4, and Beirut, Lebanon, December 1-12.



*The Truth About Yugoslavia* was reviewed in the *Wisconsin Bookwatch* and *The Journal of the United Service Institution of India*. *Bookwatch* records author George Fyson's central point that the "carnage in Yugoslavia is the product of the crisis-ridden world capitalist system." The *Journal* cites Fyson's "informative and useful introduction," and notes that "the book... gives a communist view of events in the region."



Several Pathfinder bookstores have begun to order books and pamphlets by Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, and V.I. Lenin, both to replenish stock and to meet requests for titles Pathfinder has recently begun to distribute.

Readers Club members can take advantage of a special 33 percent discount offer running to the end of the year. The best buy is the *Collected Works* of Marx and Engels, available for \$715, a savings of \$360.

## Hundreds in N.Y. protest cop killing

BY JASON CORLEY

NEW YORK — Hundreds of people here have participated in protests against the October 17 killing of Jason Nichols by a cop. According to witnesses, Nichols, a 27-year-old Black man, was shot to death in his Jamaica, Queens, neighborhood after being pinned to the ground by corrections officer Edwin Flores.

"I told you not to move," one resident said the officer yelled before pulling the trigger. Police claim the shooting was a case of mistaken identity, that Flores and his partner had been looking for someone else, who had not reported in to a prison work release program.

## Spontaneous protests

A spontaneous protest broke out, with residents confronting the police. Within minutes, dozens of cop cars arrived on the scene and positioned themselves in riot formation along the major streets.

Police initially tried to claim that Nichols was shot after he reached for the officer's gun, but angry residents exposed that as a coverup. Flores was arrested later that day and charged with manslaughter.

The day after the Nichols's death, more than 500 people turned out for a meeting at a local elementary school to protest the killing and to demand to know why the corrections officer shot a man who was already pinned to the ground. One hundred people attended a similar meeting earlier in the day.

"That could have been my child," said Orlena Jones, president of the Parent-Teacher Association at the school. "I want to know why it happened. If you arrest someone, then arrest them. But a young man died. There is nothing but a body now."

On October 22 some 200 people participated in a protest rally outside of Mount Zion Baptist Church. After several speeches and chants of calling for the guilty cop to be charged with first-degree murder, not manslaughter, the rally concluded with a candle light vigil. Another 40 people protested October 31.

In an effort to justify the shooting, police officials emphasize that Nichols had also not reported to a work release program and they claim he had two vials of crack on him when he was killed.



# November 12 march in defense of Cuba is attracting youth

Continued from front page

the discussion period hundreds of leaflets were distributed to interested students. The Progressive Student Union at the campus is helping to build the march and plans to organize students to attend.

At a rally of 300 in Annapolis, Maryland, against the Ku Klux Klan, dozens of young antiracist fighters learned about the march. Defenders of the Cuban revolution from Baltimore and Washington, D.C., joined in the protest of a Klan rally in the state's capital, and reported that dozens of young people attending were especially interested to learn about Cuba and what they could do to oppose Washington's policies.

## 90 groups sponsor march

The November 12 march is sponsored by 90 local and national organizations. A rally at Malcolm X Park will begin at 12:00 noon, followed by a march to the White House and a 2:30 p.m. rally at Lafayette Park.

The march will demand that Washington lift its trade embargo, normalize relations with Cuba, end its ban on travel by U.S. residents to Cuba, withdraw its military forces from Haiti, and get out of the illegally occupied military base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

Washington has repeatedly defended its 35-year trade and economic embargo in international forums, most recently at the United Nations General Assembly October 26. U.S. representative Victor Marrero told the delegates during a debate that the "embargo is our way of signaling continuing strong disapproval of the Cuban regime's intransigence — its unwillingness to move toward democracy or respect of human rights of the Cuban people."

Cuba's representative Fernando Remírez, explained to the assembly, "Not only has the economic, commercial, and financial blockade carried out by the United States against Cuba not been reduced in any way, but on the contrary, it has been strengthened; that government has even at-

tempted to moderate the extraterritorial nature of the blockade, but through its actions, it has ignored the requests made by the General Assembly and the international community, including numerous and ever-widening sectors of U.S. society itself."

Remírez introduced a resolution opposing Washington's embargo, entitled "Necessity of Ending the Economic, Commercial and Financial Embargo Imposed by the United States of America Against Cuba."

The resolution was approved by the General Assembly by a vote of 101 in favor, 2 against, and 48 abstaining. The two opposing votes were the U.S. and Israeli representatives.

Another sign of the widespread discussion and debate on Washington's aggressive policies which are aimed at overturning the socialist revolution in Cuba, was a resolution sent to U.S. president Bill Clinton by the Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Central America. The October 25 letter urged Clinton to "end the economic embargo against Cuba and begin bilateral negotiations with the Cuban government with the goal of normalizing relations."

In Boston, opponents of the U.S. embargo have redoubled their efforts to build



Militant/Laura Garza

Young workers at 'Ernesto Che Guevara' contingent packing bananas in Holguín, Cuba, last September. Youth and other defenders of the Cuban revolution will demand in Washington, D.C., an end to the embargo.

the march by mapping out plans to set up information tables across the city. One bus to the march has been filled and tickets are being sold for another. Supporters of the demonstration got a boost from a successful conference on the Cuban revolution on October 22 held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the speaking tour of Andrés Gómez, a national leader of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, and organization of Cuban-Americans who defend the Cuban revolution.

At a debate organized at Tufts University between Gómez and José Cárdenas of

the right-wing Cuban American National Foundation, three bus tickets were sold to university students. A bus will also be leaving from Hartford, Connecticut, and car pools are being organized from Maine and Vermont.

For information on the march, housing, to order leaflets, or who to contact in your area, call the November 12 Cuba Coalition at (202) 544-9355 in Washington, D.C., or (212) 620-0072 in New York City.

Karen Ray from Boston contributed to this article.

## Dozens of youth to join international solidarity brigade to Cuba in January

BY JACK WILLEY

NEW YORK — An international brigade of young people will visit Cuba January 6-20. Participants will be reporting for their campus newspapers, community journals, and other media on developments in Cuba, including other youth brigades from all over the globe doing voluntary work in agriculture and construction.

"There are tremendous stakes in defending the socialist revolution in Cuba for all young people and others who are fed up with the racism, sexism, bigotry, joblessness, fascism, and war that the capitalist system offers us," stated Ken Riley, one of the brigade organizers. "Working people in Cuba are refusing to kneel down before the relentless pressure from U.S. imperialism.

They are resolved not to give up the gains they have won on the road to building a society based on human solidarity rather than profits and exploitation. And they are determined not to give up their government — the only workers and farmers government in the world today.

"From the day the socialist character of the revolution became clear in 1960, the main problem for the US rulers has been the fact that the working class in Cuba has confidence in itself and its revolutionary government," says a flyer with information on the trip. "The problem for Washington is that the Cuban workers' refusal to back down from their determination to speak and act, as Cuban president Fidel Castro put it, 'on behalf of the children of the world who don't even have a crust of bread.'"

Brigade participants will have a chance to find out first hand the realities and opportunities posed to working people and youth in Cuba today and return to the United States to write and talk about their experiences.

"This trip will provide openings to win more youth to the fight against the U.S. trade embargo and travel restrictions," Riley said, "and it will build broader solidarity with the Cuban revolution." Those going on the trip must have accreditation in the form of press identification from campus or community newspapers, radio stations, or other media, indicating the bearer is traveling on editorial assignment, Riley said. Opportunities for gathering news will include spending time at an agricultural cooperative and other farms in the Cuban countryside, as well as visiting factories, an AIDS hospice, clinics, and schools.

In a few cities, local brigade committees are already coming together to reach out and bring more people on the brigade. For example, in Seattle, five people want to go on the brigade. Three people from Santa Barbara, California, who recently learned about the brigade, are reaching out to get more people to participate.

Brigade organizers in Britain are meeting with the more than two dozen people who signed up for more information on the brigade during a speaking tour of Union of young communists leader Pável Díaz in London in late October. For more information please contact: Cuba Youth Brigade, P.O. Box 1801, New York, NY 10009.

## U.S., Cuba hold talks on immigration accord

Continued from front page

immigration issue, the Cuban delegation also raised its opposition to measures decreed by the Clinton administration August 20 tightening restrictions on travel to Cuba and barring cash remittances to Cuba by Cuban-Americans.

Hays said Washington would not reverse the new sanctions on Cuba. Another U.S. official said of the regulations, "They have taken on a life of their own. It's not tied to immigration anymore."

Alarcón said these sanctions "have as much to do with the accord and immigration as the air that we breathe. If you want normal, orderly immigration, you should not create obstacles to it." He added, "I don't see how you can really proceed to an

expanded program of normal immigration if you have reduced flights and other restrictions."

In an October 23 interview in the Cuban newspaper *Juventud Rebelde*, before the talks, Alarcón stated, "The topic of immigration is inseparable from the underlying causes that create it and makes certain people want to emigrate.... The main cause is the embargo, which has been heightened of late and further tightened with the August 20 measures. We will always reiterate that the definitive and lasting solution to this problem lies in the complete lifting of the embargo and [the end] of the policy of hostility toward Cuba."

Alarcón pointed out that Cuba has "scrupulously complied with all the agree-

ments...and we are willing to continue to do so." The United States government, he said "has continued to grant visas but not yet at the pace it needs to fulfill their obligation to grant at least 20,000 per year."

### Thousands still held at Guantánamo

Meanwhile, the issue of the Cubans kept in crowded camps at the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo and at U.S. bases in Panama remains unresolved. More than 26,000 Cubans are currently detained in harsh conditions at Guantánamo and another 8,000 in Panama. U.S. government spokespeople say that at least 1,000 have indicated they want to get out of the Guantánamo base and return to Cuba.

Twenty-three detainees were prevented from boarding a flight to Havana on October 25 after a U.S. federal district judge in Miami issued an order blocking the flight. The ruling came in response to a lawsuit filed by 25 lawyers, among them former U.S. attorney Roberto Martinez and former mayor Xavier Suarez of Miami. The lawyers say that the administration is coercing the detainees into returning home by keeping conditions in the camps unbearable.

Right-wing Cuban-American businessmen, who supported the Clinton administration's incarceration of Cuban rafters in August, are now trying to portray themselves as champions of the Cuban detainees, whose plight has caused anger among many Cuban-Americans.

A group of 40 Cuban detainees at the Immigration and Naturalization Service's Krome Detention Center in Florida announced they were embarking on a hunger strike to win their freedom on October 18. More than 370 Cubans are incarcerated there.

Join an international youth brigade to revolutionary Cuba!

January 6-20, 1995

For more information write:

Cuba Youth Brigade  
P.O. Box 1801  
New York, NY 10009





# Antonio Maceo Brigade leader debates rightist on Cuba at Boston meeting . . .

BY KAREN RAY

BOSTON — "Two days ago marked the 32nd anniversary of the Cuban missile crisis," Andrés Gómez told the audience at Tufts University here October 24. "The United States was willing to risk nuclear war to destroy the Cuban revolutionary process because they could never forgive Cuba for the example it offers oppressed people everywhere."

Gómez, a long-time defender of the Cuban revolution, director of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, and editor of *Areíto* magazine was participating in a debate with José Cárdenas, head of the right-wing Cuban American National Foundation, and Alan West, a Cuban-American writer and professor who participated in a recent literary conference in Cuba. Gómez was born in Cuba and has lived in the United States since he was 13 years old. The meeting at Tufts was part of a four-day tour of New England that included speaking engagements in Connecticut, Maine, and Massachusetts.

The debate was titled "Cuba: Crisis and Revolution." It was sponsored by the Hispanic American Center and cosponsored by 14 departments at the university. Some 80 people, including many Cuban-American students, participated. This was the first time that representatives of the Antonio Maceo Brigade and the Cuban American National Foundation (CANF) had shared a platform, since the right-wing group had always refused to debate members of the brigade.

## Majority in Cuba support revolution

"The Cuban revolution has the support of the majority of people in Cuba," Gómez noted. Before the 1959 revolution, Cuba had "an economic system that did not serve the interests of the people but served the interests of a minority in Cuba and in the United States. The dignity of the Cuban people was not gained through one man or a small group of men and women but by the vast majority of the people," he said.

Referring to the emigration of thousands of people who left Cuba on rafts this sum-

mer, Gómez accused Washington of encouraging illegal immigration from Cuba by not honoring past agreements with Cuba. "The 1984 agreement allowed for 20,000 Cuban residents a year to come to the United States," he said. "But, in fact, the U.S. government only granted about 7 percent of these visas."

Gómez compared immigration from Cuba with the situation in other countries oppressed by imperialism. He said that 9 percent of the Cuban population lives outside Cuba, much less than the 50 percent of the Puerto Rican population that lives in the United States and no more than the immigration from Mexico.

## Washington's embargo

The purpose of the U.S. embargo against Cuba is "to force the Cuban people to submit to the will of a foreign country," he said. Economic and political problems in Cuba come both from "failures of leadership" and from the U.S. embargo, "but none of them compare to the situation that Cubans faced before the revolution. It is up to the Cuban people to decide which changes to make or not make." Gómez called on Washington to end its "policies of economic aggression and political subversion."

The goal of the Cuban American National Foundation "is the creation of a democratic and independent Cuba," Cárdenas said in his opening remarks. He claimed the Cuban government promoted violence. "You could fill a cemetery the size of Arlington National with people who have died due to the government of [Cuban president Fidel] Castro."

"The system we have in the United States is the greatest system created by mankind," he said.



Militant/Cecelia Moriarty

Andrés Gómez (left) of Antonio Maceo Brigade defended Cuban revolution at Tufts University debate with speaker from rightist Cuban American National Foundation.

Gómez said that if the CANF was concerned about democracy it should begin by respecting freedom of expression in Miami. "The Cuban American Foundation has supported actions of terrorism to impede free speech in Miami," he said.

During the two-hour discussion period, one young woman whose family is from Cuba said she grew up in Miami in the middle of these two sides of the polarized political debate in the Cuban-American community on the revolution, not sure what her view was.

She made her first trip to Cuba in February and said she found "unconditional acceptance" of her and other Cuban-Amer-

icans, shattering some of her preconceptions about Cuba. She expressed her opposition to the embargo because it hurt the Cuban people.

Three students present at the meeting signed up for bus tickets to the November 12 demonstration in Washington, D.C., to protest U.S. government policy towards Cuba. Both student newspapers at Tufts carried front-page stories on the debate.

Gómez also spoke to 60 students at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, and at meetings at Yale University and Central Connecticut State University in New Haven, Connecticut. He was also interviewed on radio and television stations.

# . . .speaks in L.A. of Cuba's example

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — Andrés Gómez, a prominent defender of the Cuban revolu-

tion, has been on a six-day speaking tour here. He addressed a citywide meeting October 29 and has half a dozen campus engagements and several media interviews.

Born in Cuba and living in Miami since he was 13, Gómez is chair of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, an organization of Cuban-Americans who are partisans of the Cuban revolution. He is also editor of the magazine *Areíto*.

His visit here has been organized by the Coalition in Solidarity with Cuba. The citywide meeting was held at Los Angeles Community College and sponsored by three campus organizations — the Latin American Student Organization (SOL), the Muslim Student Association, and the Black Students Union. Representatives of the groups made opening remarks welcoming Gómez to the campus.

Prior to the meeting, a paper published by Cuban counterrevolutionary exiles declared it would be good if Gómez were prevented from speaking. The Cuba coalition and the three student groups organized a network of security monitors, and the meeting was held without incident.

The gathering, attended by 150, was also a kickoff for the local contingent of the Friendship caravan. Sponsored by Pastors for Peace, the caravan conveys humanitarian aid to Cuba in a challenge to the U.S. embargo. The meeting collected \$600 to help fund the project.

Gómez told the meeting that with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of trade with the Soviet bloc, many assumed Cuba could not survive. To vigorous applause, he declared: "But Cuba's still there...working to sustain what they've achieved and to develop those gains."

He emphasized, "What they're doing is not making a transition from socialism to capitalism, but to a better way of building socialism."

The end of trade with the Soviet bloc, he continued, meant a crippling drop in Cuba's industrial production. In 1992, he reported, production was 10 percent of what it had been in 1989. In 1993 it was up to 20 percent, "and this year it will be better." But still, he said, it will be less than

half of what it was before the trade cutoff.

Discussing the August boatlift of Cubans leaving for Miami, he said that many of those who left were simply intent on escaping the economic hardship in Cuba. Others, he added, are politically opposed to Cuba's socialist course. And also, he said, some who left "had just grievances," against people in positions of power who abused that power.

When the Clinton administration incarcerated 32,000 of the boatlift people at the Guantánamo naval base and in Panama, right-wing Cubans in Miami initially boasted that they had forced the administration to do this. But the mass jailing and, also, the new ban on Cubans visiting their families or sending money home, is proving so unpopular in the community that this is creating political rifts among the counterrevolutionary forces and shifts in position.

In his presentation and during a question period, he explained that the Cuban people do want to make advances in developing and advancing their political and electoral system, but they don't want the kind they had before or the kind that prevails in the United States.

Asked if the Cuban revolution could survive without Fidel Castro, he responded, "If it couldn't, it wouldn't be a revolution."

He said that while Castro was obviously very influential in the decision-making process, a collective leadership has been developed and he anticipates further development of such collective leadership. He also foresees an evolution toward a multi-party system in Cuba.

Queried on the issue of gay rights in Cuba, Gómez frankly acknowledged that homosexuals had been unjustly victimized. But, he declared, "This has ended." He said it is now recognized policy that a person's sexual orientation has no relationship to whether or not they are revolutionaries.

Throughout, Gómez reiterated and explained why Washington "will never forgive Cuba" for its independent revolutionary course and the example it offers oppressed people everywhere, "including here in this country."

## Students, activists host meeting for Cuban at Temple University

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

PHILADELPHIA — Seventy five people attended a meeting at Temple University here October 26 with Bernardo Toscano, third secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C.

The event, entitled "Hear the Truth About Cuba," was organized by the Cuba Support Committee of Philadelphia. It was sponsored by the Women's Studies Program and endorsed by the African Students Union, Committees of Correspondence, and the Young Socialists at Temple University, as well as more than 15 additional organizations in the area.

"We saw in 1987 Cuba helping to repel the apartheid forces in Angola. That was a turning point that brought us to where we are today in South Africa," said Godfrey Sithole, leader of the African National Congress Freedom Committee in Philadelphia. He and Kwaja Jackson, of Temple University African Students Union welcomed Toscano to the city.

The Cuban representative discussed the challenges facing the revolution, and the way Cuban people have responded. "It has been necessary to guarantee priorities, to guarantee food," he said. "In 1993 we faced the storm of the century, the price of seafood on the international market fell, which had a direct impact on our economy. The price of nickel also fell. The sugar harvest fell," Toscano said, explaining Cuba's difficulty in obtaining hard currency abroad.

Despite these circumstances, "no single school has been closed in Cuba. No hospitals have been closed either and it has been possible to reduce infant mortality from 10.7 per 1,000 [live births] to 9.4 per 1,000 in 1993," he continued.

Participants at the meeting raised numerous questions, including, what was the benefit of the agreement that Cuba signed with the U.S. government on Cubans leaving the island? How was racism eradicated? What is the situation for those Cubans being detained in the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo who want to return to Cuba? Is there freedom of religion in Cuba?

There was also interest in learning about the involvement of Cuba's working people and youth in their country's decision-making process.

"It was decided that the National Assembly would not adopt measures that weren't first discussed by the Cuban people," the Cuban representative said. And, referring to the nearly 80,000 workers assemblies that took place earlier this year, Toscano added, "in most cases, the measures taken by the National Assembly were not a surprise to the Cuban people because they were discussed in meetings in which they had participated."

Bob Simpson, chairperson of the Cuba Support Committee, explained its upcoming activities in Philadelphia and appealed for funds. Wendy Lyons, a garment worker and member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textiles Workers Union, chaired the event representing the Cuba Support Committee. She announced the upcoming U.S.-Cuba Friendship caravan delivering aid to Cuba and encourage people to join the November 12 demonstration in Washington, D.C., to protest the U.S. embargo against the island.

South African activist Sithole wrapped the event up saying, "We should applaud the people of Cuba not just by clapping hands but actively supporting them."



# Garment workers in Georgia on strike to defend their union

BY SUSAN LAMONT

LOUISVILLE, Georgia — Hundreds of workers went on strike October 24 at Delila Manufacturing Co., here to protest unfair labor practices aimed at crippling their union, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) Local 2526. ACTWU Local 2524 members at a sister plant, Samson's, in nearby Waynesboro, are also on strike over the same issues. More than 500 workers are out at the two plants, which manufacture draperies and curtains. Samson's and Delila are owned by the Lichtenberg family of New York.

"Over the past three years, the company has tried to make a joke of our union," explained Barbara Gamble, a shop steward who has worked at Delila since 1981. She works in the shipping department, loading trucks with curtains headed for J.C. Penny's, K-Mart, Wal-Mart, and other Delila customers.

"Our strike is a fight for dignity and respect in the workplace," Gamble said. "The company is not treating us fairly, not taking grievances seriously, and they are denying us access to our union representatives." In the last year and a half, union members have been harassed, demoted, or fired, she explained. The company wants the union out, saying, "This is our plant and we can do what we want."

The average wage at Delila is \$5.50 an hour, according to Local 2526 president Arleese Mills. Several pickets pulled out pay stubs that showed weekly take-home pay of about \$140 — all the minimum wage of \$4.25 an hour brings. Almost all workers at both plants are Black, and many are young. This is everyone's first strike.

## 'Workers are right'

"You have to figure out what's true and make your own decision about the situation," said Manuel, a new hire who joined the strike although he had only been working at Delila about a month. "The workers are right. Just look at our pay and what the company's making. Look at what we're wearing and what they're wearing, look at what we're driving and what they're driving."

This is the second contract ACTWU members at Samson's and Delila have had to fight for, strikers explained. Workers voted to join ACTWU in 1988, but it took three years and a real fight to win their first settlement, finally ratified in 1991. Now the company wants only a 14-month agreement, which would give management an advantage by putting the next expiration date during the slow season around Christmas. Only a minimal wage increase was

offered — 3 percent over 14 months.

Since the strike began, the company has begun hiring large numbers of replacement workers at both plants. In addition, some workers at both plants — around 20 percent to 30 percent — did not go out on strike. The company is threatening to permanently replace the strikers with these scabs.

## 'We feel great about ourselves'

After a week on the picket line, strikers' spirits are high. "We feel great about ourselves," said Mills. In Louisville, strikers are out on the picket line at 6:00 a.m., building barrel fires to ward off the pre-dawn chill and preparing chants and signs to greet the scabs as they drive in at 7:00 a.m.

A daily feature of the picket line huddle is reading off the names of as many of the newly-hired scabs as can be identified so strikers can contact them that evening and try to convince them to join the strike. Several workers who crossed the picket line have come back to join the strike, union members report.

At Samson's plant in Waynesboro, the company is putting up a high chain-link fence topped with barbed wire and there is a regular police presence at both picket lines.

The stakes in this strike are especially high for workers in the South, where orga-



Militant/ Susan LaMont

Striking ACTWU members at Samson's in Waynesboro, Georgia. Some 500 workers there and at nearby Delila Manufacturing have been picketing since October 24.

nizing drives have won several thousand new members to ACTWU over the past year, often in areas where no other unions exist. In many cases, the union vote is just the first step in a longer fight to win a contract, as was the case with ACTWU's first contract at Samson's and Delila, and employers are by no means resigned to the union's existence in "their" plants.

ACTWU is appealing for support from others, including financial donations and solidarity messages. Strikers have set up committees to help union members cope with the financial difficulties posed by the strike, and food banks are being started. In addition, ACTWU will be leafleting stores that sell Samson's and Delila curtains and drapes in several cities around the country

to urge people not to buy these products while the strike is going on.

On October 28, solidarity rallies were held at both picket lines. ACTWU members from Healthtex in Warrenton, Georgia, who waged a successful walkout earlier this year, joined Samson's and Delila strikers on the picket lines. Several local ministers also spoke at the Samson's rally, along with union organizers and officials.

In addition, the Socialist Workers candidate for Georgia governor, Ellen Haywood, brought greetings to the Louisville strikers at their early morning huddle and to the Waynesboro strikers at their afternoon rally. Haywood is a member of ACTWU Local 2490 at Kuppenheimer in Loganville, Georgia.

## Yellowknife frame-up trial begins

### Continued from front page

posed confession by Warren on video and audio tapes taken by the RCMP. Warren has pleaded not guilty. During the trial on October 27, Warren's defense counsel Glenn Orris, referring to the alleged confession, stated in court that "the defense says these are false and untrue."

The prosecution's argument is that Warren crawled into the mine, walked through miles of tunnel and set the blast. Fred Kempt, president of the USWA Area Council, told the *Militant* "it's obvious to me that Roger didn't do it because of his age and health. I couldn't have physically done what the cops claim was done and I'm in better shape than Roger."

### Part of attempt to bust union

"When the RCMP tried to do a reenactment with Warren they had to stop part way because of his health. This trial is just a continuation of the strike where the company tried to bust the union," Kempt explained.

plained.

Most miners in Yellowknife believe that Warren is innocent. Corey Wells, a CAW miner at Royal Oak, reports that even some of the replacement workers who are now permanent workers at the mine believe Warren didn't do it. Several dozen miners have been subpoenaed as possible witnesses, effectively banning them from attending the trial proceedings. Despite this, many other miners and friends are attending the trial to give Warren support.

The prosecution claims that the explosives were set on the track and detonated from outside. Many experienced miners who saw the car after the blast say this does not make sense. The way the frame was bent was more consistent with an explosion from inside the car. Many believe the explosion was an accident caused when explosives were transported down the mine in the same car with men, a violation of safety regulations and common practice at the mine.

The strike against Royal Oak and the events leading up to the Warren trial have been marked by a massive police presence, cop violence, harassment, and intimidation.

Soon after the strike started an RCMP riot squad of 55 was flown in from Edmonton, Alberta. They attacked and beat strikers and supporters. Pinkerton goons were hired by the company, heavily armed and using attack dogs. They often harassed strikers and their families on the streets. Thirty to 40 undercover RCMP agents operated during the strike.

After the mine blast, several dozen strikers had their phones tapped. Hundreds of strikers and supporters were interrogated by the RCMP, some several times with the sessions lasting hours.

### Dozens arrested during strike

On March 20, 1993, CASAW striker Tim Bettger had his house searched for more than 11 hours by 30 cops. When the cops first appeared in the garage where Bettger was under a car working, they had their guns drawn. Bettger and fellow unionist Al Shearing still face frame-up charges on incidents not related to the mine blast. During the course of the strike, dozens were arrested. Hundreds of charges were laid ranging from rioting to murder.

Right after the explosion in the mine, Witte and the RCMP declared that the explosion was murder and pointed their fingers at the union. After an unsuccessful one-year fishing expedition trying to pin murder charges on strikers, Witte put pressure on the strikers by making public that there would be no more contract talks until charges were laid. Several days later, Warren was arrested.

The trial is expected to last until mid-December and is estimated to cost Warren and his family more than \$250,000. A Warren Defense Fund is organizing support in Yellowknife. USWA members at the Con mine nearby have contributed \$5,000 for the fund, explained USWA member Jack MacPhee, who coordinated the fund in September.

Contributions can be sent to the Warren Fund, c/o CAW Local 2304 P.O. Box 1628, Yellowknife, NWT X1A 2P2 1, Canada. Telephone: 403-873-4528.

Ned Dmytryshyn is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 692. Susan Berman is a member of CAW Local 1285.

## Caterpillar uses cops, courts to victimize strikers

BY JAMES HARRIS

PEORIA, Illinois — In the fifth month of the United Auto Workers (UAW) strike against Caterpillar, the heavy equipment manufacturer is increasing its use of the courts and police to frame up strike activists and limit the right to picket.

In a late night October 31 hearing, Tazewell County Judge Bruce Black ruled that he would hear charges filed by Caterpillar citing the UAW with violating a

1992 injunction that limited picketing to five people. The 1992 injunction was handed down during a previous lengthy strike. Caterpillar is seeking a \$10,000 fine for each violation. Black's ruling rejected the argument presented by the UAW attorney that the 1992 injunction was no longer in effect.

Fearing the increased numbers of workers they are seeing on the picket lines, Caterpillar bosses are seeking to severely

limit the union's ability to organize effective pickets.

Caterpillar is charging the union members with carrying signs that obscure the vision of scabs entering the plant, distracting drivers with bullhorns and whistles, putting "jack rocks" on the road to flatten tires, blocking entrances, and violating injunctions against the number of pickets allowed to demonstrate outside of Caterpillar's main offices in downtown Peoria. Caterpillar has collected 30 violations to date.

The company is trying to paint the strikers as violent and unruly. Lee Smith, a Caterpillar lawyer, is quoted in the *Pekin Daily Times* as saying, "There is real violence occurring outside the plants." Lee used words like "rampage" and "violent people" to describe a UAW picket and union members who participated.

Combined with the attack in the courts, Caterpillar is continuing to press its frame-up of two UAW members, John Schmidt and Rose McElory, who face felony charges for alleged damage to a police car during a mass picket of 200 at the Mapleton, Illinois, foundry on October 14. The only witnesses to the incident are the police. Caterpillar has recently sent both of them termination notices.

## Caterpillar strikers in York, Pennsylvania, set up speakers' bureau to win new support

Striking Caterpillar workers in York, Pennsylvania, members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 786, have established a speakers' bureau to get out the word about their struggle.

The speakers are drawn from a pool that includes local union officers, the 25 fired York strikers, and unionists who, when called back to Caterpillar before the strike, were put on a lower tier at half pay and no benefits.

The speakers are available to address union locals, churches, schools, and

community groups. Recently, for example, a United Transportation Union local in Washington, D.C., invited a speaker to their union picnic. A local of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union at a Philadelphia refinery is organizing a plant-gate collection with Caterpillar strikers and an informal reception at the union hall.

For more information contact UAW Local 786, 1650 White Ford Rd., York, PA 17402; tel: (717) 757-2915 or (717) 755-9997; fax: (717) 752-0616.



# British Railtrack workers win a round

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

MANCHESTER, England — "For over three months the government and the employers were united in their attempts to see the signal workers defeated," Paul Laycock, a member of the Manchester signal workers strike committee said in an interview. "But they failed in their goals. Throughout the dispute we remained solid. In the end we forced concessions from the company. And most importantly, our union came out of the dispute a little stronger than when we started."

On September 28, after a more than three-month struggle, the signal workers voted by a margin of 6 to 1 to accept an agreement with Railtrack, one of 25 separate business operations set up by the government to replace the state-run British Rail network. The series of one- and two-day strikes conducted by the National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers (RMT) since mid-July was the most sustained national industrial action since the 1984-85 miners strike.

Strike committee member Andy Phillips and Shellia Kennedy, a track maintenance worker in Manchester, also participated in the interview. Kennedy is fighting an attack by British Rail Infrastructure Services (BRIS), another state-run rail operation. The company had falsely accused her of safety violations and suspended her from her job as a result of her trade union and political activity. Signal workers strongly backed her fight against this victimization.

Workers won significant raises in their basic pay. Laycock said he calculated his pay will go up some 40 percent, if roster premium is included. The company agreed to include this premium, calculated at 12 percent to 14 percent of each workers' wage, in exchange for the right to force employees to work flexible hours. Workers also won a 37-hour workweek, down from 39 hours, and two extra paid holidays each year. They will receive a one-time payment of 6 percent of their annual income.

"Even though our basic pay will increase substantially our average earnings won't increase so much since workers gave up a number of different allowances that had been won previously," Laycock said. "In the past, we also worked large amounts of overtime to make up for the low basic pay," he said. "But I think having a higher basic pay is an advance on the old set-up. Union officials say the new agreement with

Railtrack will boost average earnings by about 8 percent.

"The roster premium reflects one of the concessions we made in the settlement," Laycock said. "Management was successful in winning the right to roster us 'flexibly' for up to 12-hour shifts. But the company did not succeed in imposing more than a five-day workweek, and they were unsuccessful in making Sunday a regular working day."

"It appears though that the job flexibility will only really mean anything if there are substantial job cuts for other rail workers," he said. "The bosses clearly intend to make such cuts and this will be something we have to fight out in the future."

On October 19 BRIS announced they were cutting 1,400 jobs. British Rail announced 350 cuts in maintenance jobs. So far, the layoffs are concentrated among the white collar workers.

"This announcement of job cuts is the latest in a series of attacks made by BRIS as they seek higher profits and prepare for privatization," Kennedy said. "In order to force them through, the different companies have been trying to weaken the union.

They've used drug and alcohol testing, monitored absence due to sickness and imposed draconian penalties, and enforced a new dress code — all in an attempt to discipline and victimize workers."

## Solidarity strong among workers

"That's why rail workers throughout the industry were so concerned about the outcome of the signal workers' dispute. We knew that if the signal workers were defeated, they'd come after us with even greater confidence," Kennedy noted. That's why management increased victimizations in the course of the dispute.

"When other rail workers find out the Railtrack bosses were unable to impose what they wanted on the signal workers and that, in fact, the signal workers won improvements in pay, hours, and holidays, it gives workers a little more confidence in their ability to resist."

Solidarity among workers in the Manchester area for the signal workers' fight was strong, Laycock said. "We raised over £5,000 [\$1=US\$1.60] from other workers through collections at factory gates, union branches and on the streets. Our picket

lines were visited by delegations from other unions and by individuals who wanted to show support. The employers completely failed to whip up an anti-strike lobby among the traveling public.

"I think the government came out of the dispute weaker," Phillips said. "They haven't been able to claim victory. Their rail privatization plans have been set back. We've shown that there are militant workers on the railway who may well make another stand."

While many workers may not know the details of the agreement, "they know that Railtrack and the government didn't defeat the signal workers," Kennedy said. "For nearly 10 years, many workers have said that the defeat of the 1984-85 coal miners strike was proof that we can't fight against the bosses' attacks and win. But people won't say this about the signal workers. This was a high-profile fight by a group of workers with some clout that directly affected other working people."

Jonathan Silberman is a member of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union in Manchester.

## Rail unionists push back bosses' attack

MANCHESTER, England — Workers here won a partial victory when British Rail Infrastructure Services was forced to back down and reinstate track maintenance worker Shellia Kennedy. A member of the National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers (RMT), Kennedy was suspended from her job at Manchester Piccadilly station in August for supposed safety violations.

The bosses, however, continue to victimize Kennedy. They refuse to lift the "unsafe worker" designation from Kennedy's record. They have disqualified her as a lookout, removed her from her track job at Piccadilly, and assigned her to an isolated job at Guide Bridge.

After the August victimization, the union launched a campaign in Kennedy's defense, noting that the company never charged her with a single safety violation. "The real issue is Shellia's trade union activity," a fact sheet produced by the union branch explained, noting that just two weeks before suspending her, she had been

called into the office for another unspecified offense. "Why do you always want to bring the union into everything," her supervisor said after she requested union representation.

Five hundred members of the RMT and of ASLEF, the train engineers union, signed a petition demanding Kennedy's immediate reinstatement. Signers included RMT general secretary Jimmy Knapp. Kennedy's union branch decided that if she was not reinstated they would propose to the union leadership that a vote be taken to decide on a possible strike action. The branch issued hundreds of copies of a leaflet, which quickly made their way up and down the rail system — from Scotland to London.

Members of the Manchester signal workers strike committee, who were involved in their own fight against Railtrack, threw themselves into the defense effort, including paying for the costs of the leaflet.

"We saw Shellia Kennedy's case as very important," Andy Phillips, a member of the

RMT strike committee at Railtrack, explained. "Meeting Shellia and other union activists like her was one of the most important experiences I had during the dispute," Phillips went on. "I learned that the most important thing is our ability to keep a strong union. That's why Shellia's fight, like our dispute, is so popular."

"Shellia Kennedy has never been charged with a single breach of safety," Paul Laycock, another member of the strike committee, stressed. "Management's case is built around innuendo. They refused to hand over any evidence to union officials."

Strike committee members helped collect signatures demanding that Kennedy be given her job back. At the signal workers grades conference in Great Yarmouth two weeks before the end of the dispute, strike committee members joined Kennedy in campaigning for her defense.

Kennedy is currently fighting to get her records cleared of the "unsafe" allegation.

— J.S.

## Why Japan bashing hurts rubber workers strike

BY MIKE GALATI

DES MOINES, Iowa — For more than three months, 4,200 members of the United Rubber Workers (URW) have been on strike against Bridgestone/Firestone. They are waging a determined fight to defend their union, wages, and working conditions against the deep concessions demanded by the world's largest tire maker.

As a staunch supporter of the strike, I disagree with the attempt by some URW officials to cast this important fight as a battle between a "Japanese-owned" company and its "American workers." I believe that this approach plays into the hands of the bosses and weakens the strike.

## UNION TALK

URW international president Kenneth Coss calls Bridgestone/Firestone an "invader." Union officials organized a rally August 18 in front of the Japanese consulate in Chicago to "send a message to Tokyo," as one local official put it. The lead banner at an August march and rally in support of the strikers in Des Moines read, "Japanese owned Bridgestone/Firestone is treating its American Workers and their families unfairly." While most signs at union-sponsored rallies and events have correctly focused on the company's outrageous takeback demands, others have included anti-Japanese slogans such as, "No Concession to Japan oppression," "No Jap Crap!" and "Remember Hiroshima: We beat them before, We can beat them again."

This anti-Japanese focus weakens the strike. It undermines the needed unity of the working class and takes the focus of the union's fight off the real source of the concession demands and union busting attacks.

### The problem is capitalism

The deep, worldwide economic depression means that capitalists around the world find their profits being squeezed. Competition between them becomes sharper by the hour. They try to increase their productivity by taking it out of our hides. They cut our wages and benefits, jack up line speed, increase forced overtime, and gut safety standards on the job. When they can get away with it, they

try to bust our unions out-right. This is what they call downsizing and restructuring.

The tire industry is a good example of this. Over the last decade the competition has grown fierce. Company after company has demanded, and gotten, concessions from their workers, regardless of whether it was American-, Japanese-, Italian-, or French-owned.

The problem with Bridgestone/Firestone is that it's a capitalist enterprise, not what country its owners were born or live in. The road forward for rubber workers is to reach out and build the broadest possible solidarity among other rubber workers, the whole U.S. labor movement, and workers and trade unions around the world.

We saw the potential for this type of solidarity when more than 1,000 people — mostly trade unionists — participated in a march and rally for the striking Firestone workers of URW Local 310 August 27 here in Des Moines. Another example is in Decatur, Illinois, where striking Firestone, Caterpillar, and locked-out A.E. Staley workers are standing shoulder to shoulder on each others picket lines. But URW strikers will certainly not be able to reach out to Japanese rubber workers with signs at union rallies praising the U.S. government's slaughter of more than 100,000 Japanese civilians in the criminal atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

Anti-Japanese rhetoric also allows the company to falsely pretend that it has the moral high ground on the question of racism. Taking advantage of this opening, the company filed an unfair labor practice complaint with the National Labor Relations Board in early October, charging the union with, "racial and national origin



Militant/John Sarge

October 15 rally in Decatur, Illinois, was an example of labor solidarity. Japan bashing makes it easier for the bosses to divide working people.

prejudices."

Bridgestone/Firestone has already said it is going to try to make up for some of the lost production at their struck plants by importing tires from their factories in Japan. The only answer to this threat is for rubber workers in Japan and rubber workers in the United States to fight together against their common employer.

As management raises the stakes in this battle by hiring more scabs, the U.S. bosses, and their government, courts, and cops, will act to protect and aid this "Japanese-owned" company as they try to defeat the strike. This is the international solidarity of the bosses. It can, and must, be taken on and defeated with the international solidarity of the trade union movement and the world working class. The Bridgestone/Firestone strike is a good place to start.

Mike Galati is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149 in Marshalltown, Iowa. He is also the Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Iowa.



# L.A. students back rights of immigrants

Continued from front page

dents to come out with them. Speaking at a rally, student organizer Aaron Diyarza denounced the attacks on those born in other countries. "Immigrants who come to this country come as workers. Now they are being blamed for the country's economic crisis," he said.

## Thousands walk out

On Friday, October 28, the demonstrations against the anti-immigrant measure mushroomed, involving 8,000 students throughout southern California. The protests have occurred mainly in schools with large Chicano and Mexican student bodies.

Some 2,000 students marched out of Monroe High School. Another 2,500 students from Van Nuys and Chatsworth high schools walked out of class and marched to the nearby Van Nuys Civic Center. They were met by police holding batons and shotguns. According to the *Times*, after an hour-long standoff, police herded students onto buses and took them to a football field near the Van Nuys school. One student was hit by a baton and others were sprayed with pepper gas.

In Oxnard, north of Los Angeles, another 1,500 to 2,000 students from 10 schools marched to a park and rallied against Proposition 187. The following two days, residents in eight Mexican border cities, from California to Texas, held similar protests.

## Police on alert

Government authorities responded to the peaceful student protests by putting the California National Guard's commanders on alert that weekend. The Los Angeles police were placed on "tactical alert."

Some of the high school and college activists gathered October 22 at a Militant Labor Forum, held at the Pathfinder bookstore here, to discuss the fight against Proposition 187. Olga Miranda, a student at Los Angeles City College and organizer of Student Coalition Against Proposition 187, said, "At the march on October 16, the students were present! We want to work together now — whoever wants to work with us against the odds, no matter how dark your skin is. The system has always worked against us."

Raymundo Sanchez, organizer of the Hispanic Engineers club at Monroe High School, explained the difficulties of organizing against the measure at his school, saying that his teachers do not want youth to bring "politics" into the classroom. April Cox, a student at Claremont McKenna College, referred to efforts to pit U.S.-born workers against those born in other countries, saying, "We are workers. All of us! The system is afraid of people getting together."

## Actions planned after elections

A group of students and other youth met October 26 and laid plans for further protests leading up to and beyond the November 8 election day. "Whatever happens, if it passes or not, the student movement will be around after November 8," said Angel Cervantes, a student at Claremont Graduate School and organizer of the group October Student Movement.

Some of the forces opposing Proposition 187, particularly among those campaigning for Democratic candidates, who criticize the initiative but favor "more effective" ways to crack down on immigrant rights, have tried to convince students to stop their public demonstrations.

Scott Macdonald, a spokesperson for Taxpayers Against 187, said his group opposed the student protests and complained that the youth were sending the "wrong message."

More walkouts and student sit-ins were planned for November 2, 5, and 7. On November 9, the day after the elections, students will gather at the downtown Ronald Reagan State Building here to join other community and union activists in an immigrant rights rally.

Vanessa Knapton and John Evenhuis are members of the Young Socialists in Los Angeles.

# Washington broke its teeth in Iraq war

BY SARA LOBMAN

Iraqi president Saddam Hussein's recent deployment of 70,000 elite troops to southern Iraq near the Kuwaiti border, highlights the now-accepted fact that the U.S. ruling class broke its teeth during its 1990-91 war against Iraq. Washington failed to replace the Hussein government with a regime more subservient to U.S. imperialism. It failed to "cure" working people in the United States of the "Vietnam Syndrome" — the deep mistrust of U.S. military and government goals abroad. And the war itself exacerbated the rivalry and tension among the different imperialist powers and increased the instability in the region.

Many of these facts were explained at the time in the pages of the *Militant*. They are most clearly presented in the article "Washington's Assault on Iraq: The Opening Guns of World War III" by Jack Barnes in *New Internationalist* no. 7, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory.

## U.S. rulers' calculated brutality

In light of these failures, the U.S. rulers have spent nearly four years debating whether it was correct to end the ground war against Iraq after 100 hours in February 1991. In an October 23 article in the *New York Times*, Michael Gordon and Bernard Trainor, who argue that the decision to end the war prevented a U.S. victory, make some interesting points that highlight the calculated brutality of the U.S. rulers.

The authors, whose book *The Generals' War* will be published in January, note that when then-U.S. president George Bush decided to end the assault on Iraq in February 1991, he thought he had achieved his goals — both in the Gulf and at home. In addition, Bush feared that if the war were allowed to continue, the massive slaughter carried out by the U.S. troops — and until then carefully covered up through media censorship and talk of "precision bombing" and "collateral damage" — would become known, cutting across support for his administration in the United States.

## 'A potential political problem'

"In Washington, the stunning success of the allied forces was becoming a potential political problem," Gordon and Trainor write.

"News reports told of American pilots bombing Iraqi troops retreating from Kuwait City. The American military later determined that a couple hundred Iraqis had been killed on the 'highway of death,' as the road north had been named." The authors' point is correct, although the figure they quote is absurdly low. In reality, the number of fleeing Iraqis murdered by the U.S. forces on the road to Basra was in the tens of thousands. U.S. government and



The number of Iraqis murdered in the road from Kuwait City to Basra was in the tens of thousands. Washington feared its massive slaughter would become known.

military officials had full knowledge of this "turkey shoot."

"If we continued fighting another day, until the ring was completely closed, would we be accused of a slaughter of Iraqis who were simply trying to escape, not fight?" Gordon and Trainor quote Bush as saying earlier this year.

The U.S. president and then-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Colin Powell were "concerned not only about achieving

their military goals but also about how the war was being portrayed," the authors say.

In addition, Bush did not think Washington's imperialist rivals would continue to support a war that strengthened the U.S. rulers' hands in the region and weakened their own. "The coalition was agreed on driving the Iraqis from Kuwait, not on carrying the conflict into Iraq or destroying Iraqi forces," Bush said in the 1994 interview.

## CALENDAR

### NEW YORK

#### Brooklyn

**Socialist Workers Campaign Rally.** Speakers: Larry Lane, Socialist Workers candidate for governor; Naomi Craine, candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6 p.m. 59 Fourth Ave. Tel: (718) 399-7257, (212) 388-9475, or (518) 465-0585.

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Open House.** Speakers: Mary-Alice Waters, editor, *New Internationalist*; Naomi Craine, National Committee member of Young Socialists; Aaron Ruby, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Washington, D.C. Sat., Nov. 12, 4 p.m. For information on location call (202) 387-2185.

### BRITAIN

#### London

**Pathfinder Books — Weapons in the Hands of Today's Fighters.** Meeting to raise money for Pathfinder Fund. Panel of speakers. Sat., Nov. 12, 7 p.m. *Pathfinder Mural* video and refreshments at 5:30 p.m. 47 The Cut. Tel: 071-401-2409.

#### Manchester

**Crisis in Russia and Eastern Europe.** Speakers: Frank Hirschmann, student; Chris Morris, member, Amalgamated and Electrical Union and Communist League. Sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum. Sat., Nov. 19, 6 p.m. Pathfinder Bookshop, First floor, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £2. Tel: 061-839-1766.

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**Mum's the word** — In 1954, then secretary of defense, Charles Wilson, directed that the department's radiation experiments on hundreds were to follow the code of medical ethics resulting from



Harry Ring

the Nuremberg trials after World War II. He then classified his directive as "top secret."

Simple, he was a capitalist

**politician** — "We are still trying to figure out why anybody in his right mind would adopt an ethical policy and then classify it secret." — Ruth Faden, medical ethicist and member of panel reviewing secret government use of people in radiation experiments.

**Big Boss in the sky** — In Manchester, Britain, the Salvation Army dismissed a couple, in violation of an agreement, declaring they had no employment rights because when they took the job they were "answering a call from God." An industrial tribunal rejected the couple's appeal, ruling that "a contract with God" is not legally binding.

**Ultimate employer offensive** — An elephant employed to haul logs on a road in India's Andaman islands took a rest break on the road, blocking a motorcade of VIP officials. Apparently concerned by the ensuing din, the elephant headed into the jungle. He's being hunted by officials armed with a death warrant.

**Domestic use only** — Washington lifted the trade sanctions imposed on China for alleged missile transfers to Pakistan. In return, China agreed not to export missiles capable of sending a 1,000-pound payload 186 miles. It will be permitted to sell missiles with a lesser payload and shorter range.

**Who said they live in an ivory tower?** — The University of California gets \$2.5 billion a year for operating three government nuclear weapons plants. The feds also provide the university a \$14 million contingency fund in the unlikely event that it's hit with criminal safety violations. If it's not used, the university keeps the money.

**It's only fair** — That government-University of California deal also stipulates that the nuclear laboratories must be given advance notice of any surprise inspections.

**The march of culture** — With "adult" videos and related items already reportedly raking in \$4 billion a year, South Pointe, a major

distributor of the material, says it's aiming to build a franchise chain of up to 600 outlets. In addition to videos, they plan to put films on CD-ROM.

**Contemporary art** — "The Juice," a 20 1/2 inch cast bronze figure of O.J. in his football uniform. A limited edition of 25,000 castings, \$3,395 each.

**What double standard?** — A Seattle couple was busted while allegedly having sex in an abandoned bus. Cops said the woman's buttocks were exposed and jailed her for indecent exposure. The man, they said, only had his pants unzipped. He was released.

## Canadian cops' spying and harassment exposed

BY GEORGE ROSE

TORONTO — Canada's secret political police spied on striking unionists and condoned acts of harassment and violence against antiracist activists, according to journalists investigating the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS).

Revelations have centered on the activities of Grant Bristow, a CSIS informer who was a central leader of the fascist Heritage Front. Untold thousands of dollars in government payments to Bristow helped to finance the violent white supremacist group, which Bristow helped found in 1989.

In September, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) television reported that CSIS spied on the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) and passed on information to Canada Post management. During the 1970s and 1980s, CUPW carried out several militant strikes.

CUPW president Darrell Tingley demanded an independent inquiry into CSIS. "We want to see our file and we want to know why CSIS is still spying on legitimate political activities and organizations," Tingley said. "It's an outrage that CSIS was used during a strike to tip the scales in favor of management. It's illegal and unacceptable."

The director of CSIS issued a statement denying that the agency had ever investigated CUPW. He said the CBC had gotten CSIS confused with its predecessor, the Security Service of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). CSIS replaced the RCMP Security Service in 1984 after public revelations that the Mounties had carried out thefts, burglaries, arson, and other illegal acts in disruption campaigns against the labor and Quebec nationalist movements.

### 4,000 pages of files on postal workers

Officers and staff of CUPW have obtained more than 4,000 pages of RCMP files about surveillance on the postal workers. Most of the pages were completely blanked out by government censors. But enough remained to show "that indeed the RCMP had passed information on to the post office," according to a report in the union's bulletin, CUPW Perspective.

CBC television producers say they stand

by their report of CSIS spying on the postal workers. A later CBC report revealed that Grant Bristow spent three weeks in 1989 roaming around the huge Gateway mail processing center near Toronto, claiming to be investigating parcel theft on behalf of a customs broker. Contract talks were going on at the time between CUPW and Canada Post.

Before getting onto the government payroll, Bristow worked for the CISB security firm. His duties there included running a team of 30 guards used against a strike in Brantford, Ontario, according to the September 10 *Toronto Star*.

Fired by CISB in 1987, Bristow got a job as a security agent for Kuehne and Nagel, a large shipping company. His former manager, Robert Tye, remembers Bristow as an outspoken racist with remarkable police connections. "Any time there was a liaison needed with a law enforcement agency, Bristow could call in a chip," Tye told the *Toronto Star*.

### Spying for fascist outfit too

Bristow's comrades in the Heritage Front also valued his ability to dig up information about groups and individuals targeted for harassment by the fascists. When asked about some antiracist activist, "within a day or two, Bristow would come back with files that could include such confidential documents as criminal records, credit histories, and even FBI files," reported the *Star*.

Meanwhile, another CBC-TV program, "The Fifth Estate," broadcast a report October 4 that CSIS knew in advance of criminal actions by Heritage Front members but did nothing to prevent them. An unnamed police source is quoted as saying CSIS fears that Bristow "will blow his lid." The source continued: "What they're scared of is Grant's going to say: 'Yeah, we desecrated Jewish synagogues. We threatened people's lives. We were throwing rocks through windows and we were manufacturing incidents and we were doing all of this on the instructions of CSIS.'"

"The Fifth Estate" interviewed Thomas Metzger, leader of the White Aryan Resistance, a fascist-like group based in California. Bristow arranged and helped pay for a

visit by Metzger to Toronto in 1992, in which he boasted of his group's assaults against Jews. After Metzger's speech to a Heritage Front rally, Canadian immigration cops made a big show of detaining and deporting him — although CSIS had known all along of the plans for Metzger's tour. In apparent retaliation for Metzger's deportation, three Toronto synagogues were defaced that night, spray-painted with Nazi slogans.

"The Fifth Estate" program and other revelations about Bristow expose the fraud that CSIS and other cops are infiltrating or investigating right-wing groups like the Heritage Front in order to avert violence or protect democratic rights. Information available to CSIS never once led to the arrest of right-wingers involved in assaults against immigrant workers, harassment of antiracist activists, or vandalism. To the contrary, Bristow's CSIS handler, Al Tredennick, is reported to have intervened with local police to protect Bristow and other racists.

The Communist League candidates in the Toronto municipal elections, John Steele for mayor and Janet Fisher for city council, are demanding full disclosure of all government files on Bristow, the Heritage Front, and CSIS spying on unions.

In November 1992 swastikas were spray-painted in front of the Native Centre in Toronto and a Star of David was spray-painted on the front window of the Pathfinder bookstore. Two months earlier, vandals threw rocks through the Pathfinder bookstore window, causing \$800 in dam-

age. Police dragged their feet about carrying out any investigation of these incidents; no arrests were ever made. "Were Bristow and CSIS involved in these attacks?" asks Steele.

### Gov't links to fascists 'no aberration'

"Links between CSIS, other cops, and fascist outfits like the Heritage Front are no aberration," Steele said in an interview. "Nor do these revelations mean CSIS is 'out of control.' It is very much under the control of the capitalists who run the Canadian government. What the fascists say publicly is no different from what the capitalists and capitalist politicians say privately."

"The Heritage Front calls for attacking Blacks and immigrants," Steele noted, "and the Toronto cops shoot down Blacks and immigrants in the streets. Racism and hatred of immigrants and unions are the common currency of both fascists and cops, for the simple reason that racism and immigrant- and union-bashing serve to divide workers. They weaken our ability to organize and defend our jobs, wages, and safety as the employers try to wring more profit from our labor."

Steele said that the socialist candidates have demanded the government open the files of CSIS and other cop agencies; prosecute those responsible for violence, vandalism, and harassment against immigrant workers, unionists, socialists, and antiracists; and end CSIS interference in the unions and collaboration with right-wing thugs.

## - 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO -

### THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People

November 14, 1969

Price 10¢

The vast productive network of General Electric's 280 plants in 33 states was abruptly halted in the first week of the nationwide strike called Oct. 27 by a coalition of 13 unions united behind wage demands of the International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers (IUE), an AFL-CIO affiliate.

Strikers stopped production throughout the GE empire despite efforts to keep all plants open. On the first day company spokesmen claimed 25 plants were operating normally and 92 others showed effects of the strike. Among those "showing effects" were the big plants in Schenectady, N.Y., and Lynn, Mass., where pickets clashed with nonstriking supervisors and other salaried employees. Also in Burlington, Vt., and Conneaut, Ohio, fighting was provoked by company scabs who tried to force their way into plants there.

This new demonstration of union power comes as a surprise and shock to GE management. The arrogant attitude of company negotiators who are accustomed to call in union officials in order to read off the "take-it-or-leave-it" terms of a company-drafted union contract has now been effectively challenged. And the challenge comes in the language that employers everywhere understand — no production.

### THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

November 11, 1944

**SAN FRANCISCO** — In a drastic move to maintain its vicious jim-crow segregation policy, a seven-man goldbraid, navy court-martial has found 50 Negro sailors guilty of "mutiny." Penalties may range from extended prison sentences to the maximum, death. The verdict was brought in after only 45 minutes of deliberation upon the conclusion of 33 days of contradictory testimony and arguments.

The case goes back to the Port Chicago disaster, when a ship being loaded with ammunition blew up, causing the death of 327 men and tremendous damage. The great majority of the men were Negro sailors in "labor battalions" doing longshore work. All the men brought to trial were involved in the tragedy, being either survivors or among the squads that cleaned up the wreckage and remnants of bodies dismembered by the explosion.

The trial testimony showed that the men feared to continue loading ammunition after Port Chicago. Petitions had been circulated asking for transfers to other types of work, stating that they feared to work ammunition after seeing the effect of the blast. These petitions were used as the basis for the charge of "conspiracy to mutiny."

Any exhibition of resentment by the men against their lot was immediately translated by the officers into a threat against their authority and discipline. The whole navy system of intimidation was brought into play.

### FROM PATHFINDER

New International no. 6

### The 50-Year Domestic Contra Operation

by Larry Seigle

Describes the fight by the U.S. labor and Black rights movements — including the communist movement — against attacks on political rights by the government's police agencies from the late 1930s, as the U.S. rulers prepared to enter World War II, to today. \$10

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The Victory in the Socialist Workers Party Suit against Government Spying

Edited by Margaret Jayko

The historic 1986 federal court ruling, trial testimony, and commentary tracing 50 years of government spying. \$17.95

Available at bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Fax (212) 727-0150. If ordering by mail, add \$3 for postage and handling.





# The fight for immigrant rights

Day after day, thousands of high school and junior high school students have been holding classroom walk-outs and rallies throughout southern California in opposition to Proposition 187, a measure that, if approved in the November 8 voting in California, would bar undocumented workers and their children from public schools, hospitals, and social services.

This sustained political activity and ferment occurs in the wake of the October 16 march of 70,000 for immigrant rights held in Los Angeles. That mobilization, together with the new wave of protests it has inspired, provides a good example of how to fight the escalating attacks by the employers and their government on the rights of working people. The participation of some unions in the march sets an example for the entire labor movement to follow.

Proof of the effectiveness of this kind of fightback is that it has the capitalist rulers worried that Proposition 187 will backfire on them. Initiated by right-wing forces, the immigrant-bashing measure was embraced by prominent politicians like California governor Pete Wilson. Other big-business politicians, such as Wilson's Democratic opponent Kathleen Brown, have distanced themselves from the initiative but support other ways of cracking down on the rights of undocumented workers.

Now various capitalist politicians, including conservative Republican figures like Jack Kemp and William Bennett, along with Los Angeles police chief Willy Williams, have belatedly tripped over themselves to oppose Proposition 187. Within days of the October 16 march, the Clinton administration dropped its publicly noncommittal stance and came out in favor of a "no" vote.

Proposition 187 is not an aberration. It is one aspect of the deep political crisis affecting capitalism in a period of economic depression not seen since the 1930s. As the wealthy ruling families seek to recoup their profit margins, they have no alternative but to launch a brutal drive

to lower the wages and living standards of working people. To do so, they are seeking to foster deeper divisions among the working class and weaken its capacity to resist this assault. Scapegoating and criminalizing the most vulnerable sections of the working class is one of the principal methods governments are using in all major capitalist countries.

The current campaign whipped up by the French government against high school students wearing Islamic headscarves is one more example.

These reactionary policies by the government embolden emerging ultrarightist currents that are rearing their heads in this "culture war" over the major social questions today. Fascist politician Patrick Buchanan bluntly expressed the reactionary thrust of the anti-immigrant campaign in an October 29 column in the *New York Post*. "The roots of this dispute over Prop. 187 are grounded in the warring ideas that we Americans hold about the deepest, most divisive, issues of our time: ethnicity, nation, culture," he declared. Playing on racist prejudice, he evoked "a sea of Mexican flags" at the October 16 rally and warned that in coming years "south Texas and southern California will be almost exclusively Hispanic." Buchanan concluded that "we need soon to bring down the curtain on this idea of hyphenated Americanism," referring to immigrants.

Buchanan's argument that U.S.-born working people should identify as "we Americans" against "them" — workers born abroad — is a deadly poison that must be answered, and only the labor movement has an interest in answering it. The real "us" is working people worldwide, who have the same interests in confronting "them," the employers and their government.

The demonstrations by youth in the streets, and the potential involvement of more working people and unions in this fight, are exactly the kind of response that is needed to deal a blow to this anti-working class campaign of the bosses.

# Iowa officials uphold conviction of framed political activist

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — "I find that the adjustment committee had sufficient evidence to support its finding of facts and disposition. Additionally, I find that there were no procedural errors which would warrant a modification of the committee's decision. Your appeal is denied," James McKinney, deputy director for institutions of the Iowa Department of Corrections, wrote October 25 to imprisoned political activist Mark Curtis.

Curtis had appealed his conviction by a prison kangaroo court on trumped-up charges of assault. While working with his supporters in the Mark Curtis Defense Committee to prepare a campaign to press the Iowa Board of Parole to release him, Curtis was seized by prison guards on August 23, thrown into lockup, and charged with attacking another inmate.

He was brought shackled hand and foot before a prison administrative law judge on September 12, denied the right to consult his attorney or confront his accusers, convicted, and sentenced to the maximum punishment allowable under prison regulations — 30 days in "the hole" and a year in lockup. At the beginning of October he was informed by the parole board that he was being denied parole this year. Curtis appealed his conviction through every administrative channel open to him, both within the prison and through the Department of Corrections. The October 25 decision denying his appeal exhausts all administrative avenues.

Hundreds of union and political activists had written or faxed protest letters to the prison warden and the Iowa Department of Corrections urging that the conviction be reversed. Among those who sent messages were Kgalema Motlanthe, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers of South Africa; Andrés Gómez, editor of *Areito* magazine in Miami; Carol Warren, peace and justice coordinator for the Catholic Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky; Larry Ginter, secretary of the American Agriculture Movement of Iowa; the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee; and Jean Pierre Agazar, director of the Drama School of Le Havre, France.

Curtis is working with his attorneys, William Kütmus and Jeanne Johnson, to challenge the conviction and harsh sentence in state court. The union and political activist is now out of "the hole," having served his 30 days. He is in lockup, restricted to his cell for 23 hours a day. He has received his radio back, which allows him to keep abreast of world news. Curtis is permitted to keep more books, and recently placed an order for a number of titles, including *Marx and Engels on the United States* and *The Revolution Betrayed* by Leon Trotsky. He is working on a number of writing projects for the *Militant* newspaper, including a review of *The Bell Curve* — the much publicized pseudo-scientific attempt to justify racial discrimination.

Curtis's attorneys also received notification in October that his appeal of the 1988 frame-up conviction that sent him to prison has been accepted for review by the Eighth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

Curtis was arrested while participating in a public campaign to defend 17 coworkers from Mexico and El Salvador who worked with him at the Monfort meatpacking plant. These workers had been seized in an immigration raid on the plant and thrown in jail.

He was charged with rape and burglary and brutally beaten in the city jail by the Des Moines police. Along with supporters around the world, Curtis has fought to get out the truth about his frame-up and to fight for his freedom. For more information on his case, write to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

# Defend framed-up miner

The mine bosses are dead serious about busting the union at Royal Oak Mine in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, and intimidating other embattled workers from resisting attacks by the employers. That's why they're attempting to frame unionist Roger Warren on murder charges and lock him up for good. The labor movement and all democratic-minded people in North America and elsewhere must mobilize to defend this fellow worker with the same seriousness with which they responded to the company assault that provoked the 18-month strike.

Frame-ups are not isolated incidents, accidents, or misunderstandings. In the face of continued strikes and other resistance by working people, including some modest victories, the bosses turn to increasingly brutal methods to try to drive down wages, slash social programs, and break the confidence of the working class as they scramble to salvage their falling profit rates. From fighting unionists on the picket line to the more random victims of gun-toting, nightstick-swinging "neighborhood" cops, the rulers hope to instill terror in the hearts of the working class.

The 240 gold miners at Royal Oak struck against moves to slash safety inspections, discipline injured workers, and roll back seniority rights. They reached out and won broad support from other working people in Canada. The miners returned to work with their contract and their union intact. But the bosses didn't take this show of union power sitting down. The vicious campaign they waged to try to destroy the union at any cost included cops, courts, scabs, and a full complement of paid spies and thugs. Hundreds of charges were filed against union members and their supporters during the strike.

When an explosion rocked the mine early in the strike, killing nine replacement workers, the company couldn't have been happier. With the help of the media, courts, and cops they moved quickly to pin the blame on the strikers. Experienced unionists weren't surprised. Frame-

ups and violence-baiting have long been one of the favored items in the bosses' bag of union-busting tricks. The new attack began "just as we were starting to win the public to our side of the strike issues," then-union president Harry Seeton noted after the cops issued their first statement fingering the union.

Warren is in honorable company. John Schmidt and Rose McElory, two striking Caterpillar workers in Illinois, face trumped-up charges of damaging a police car during a mass picket. The only witnesses were the cops. Des Moines, Iowa, police arrested and framed Mark Curtis on false charges of rape and burglary after he and coworkers protested an immigration raid at the Monfort packinghouse in 1988. Nine workers fighting a lockout by A.E. Staley Manufacturing have been charged with the "crime" of holding a picnic in a park near the home of the company's vice president. And in Britain, rail worker Shellia Kennedy was fired for unsubstantiated safety violations in the midst of a series of national rail strikes. "Why do you always want to bring the union into everything?" the boss had asked her earlier.

The union movement in Canada, the United States, and around the world needs to rise to the defense of Warren and other frame-up victims. This is an essential part of the battle against the capitalists' offensive on workers' rights and standard of living. Warren's trial is expected to last until mid-December. Union locals, youth, and others can send delegations to show their support. Financial contributions to cover the cost of the defense effort are badly needed. Most importantly, defenders of democratic rights can expose the frame-up, and tell the truth about the miners' fight and the long history of company and government harassment. That is the strongest guarantee that the rulers' plans to denigrate the name of the Yellowknife strikers and deal a blow to all working people will go down to defeat.

Drop the charges against Roger Warren now!

# Miners support Curtis

BY SUSIE BERMAN  
AND NED DYMTRYSHIN

YELLOWKNIFE, Northwest Territories — Miners here, members of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) and United Steelworkers of America, know what frame-ups are all about. The Royal Oak Mine, backed by the courts and cops, laid frame-up charges against hundreds of workers during the gold miners' strike in 1992-93.

The three outstanding frame-up charges are murder charges against miner Roger Warren; and arson, and breaking and entering against Al Shearing and Tim Bettger. All three are members of CAW Local 2304 — formerly Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers Local 4. Warren's trial has just begun. Shearing and Bettger are out on bail. The conditions of bail include a 9:00 p.m. curfew and a ban on talking to each other.

Several miners and their families recently took the time to meet with supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and discuss the fight of framed unionist and political activist Mark Curtis. Some miners here are already familiar with Curtis's campaign for justice. Two house meetings were organized to discuss the case and watch the video, *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis*.

Several miners agreed to send messages to protest the most recent frame-up against Curtis in prison and demand his parole. Five decided to sign up as new endorsers of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, including framed-up unionists Al Shearing and Tim Bettger. In addition, miners contributed \$70 to Curtis's defense.



# N.Y. furniture strikers protest role of cops

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your

ard for United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) Local 773, said five UPIU locals have donated \$500 and almost two dozen members have walked the picket lines in support of the strike.

Leonard Beebe, a member of Teamsters Local 294, came out with another member of his local. "If they get away with it here it'll make it easier to do it where I'm at," he explained.

## ON THE PICKET LINE

union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

Some 100 strikers and supporters rallied October 20 outside the Telescope Casual furniture plant in Granville, New York. The members of International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) Local 36 were protesting the sheriff department's role in escorting scabs. The unionists went on strike in mid-September after voting unanimously to reject a contract that would have reduced wages by \$4 to \$5 an hour. The company also demanded cuts in benefits and elimination of seniority rights.

"This rally has really pulled this local together," said Don Herbst, an assembly worker for 22 years. "We have people stop by and donate money that we never saw before," he said about the outpouring of labor and community solidarity. Larry Bulman, chief shop stew-

ard for United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) Local 773, said five UPIU locals have donated \$500 and almost two dozen members have walked the picket lines in support of the strike.

### Meatpackers oppose job cuts in Stockholm

Meatpackers at the Goman plant in Stockholm, Sweden, are protesting management's decision to reduce the workforce to 110 from 350 and move production to its Uppsala plant. The workers met the company's September 27 announcement by demanding a union meeting. More than 100 packing-house workers came to the meeting with ideas on fighting back.

"We have to do something," one worker said. "Maybe they'll close the plant down anyway, but it feels better to fight than just to accept unemployment."

Another unionist proposed



Militant/Abbey Tilsner

Strikers and supporters at Telescope Casual furniture plant in Granville, New York. The workers rallied to oppose the sheriff department's protection of scabs. The union rejected a proposed \$4-\$5 wage cut.

marching over to an upcoming board meeting to protest the layoffs. A third worker suggested a walkout. The union officials objected, arguing that those kinds of actions are illegal and could bring the union huge fines.

"What difference does it make?" a worker said after the union meeting. "We'll end up unemployed anyway, let's fight!"

"I don't care what they say to us, it's war now," said another meatpacker. "Let's put pressure on the Social Democratic politicians most of us voted for. If they do nothing we have to act."

The company decided to postpone the layoffs the day before their board meeting. "They're just going to postpone the firings until

after Christmas," one worker said. "I won't be working all that overtime to be unemployed after Christmas. They are playing with us."

### Hundreds of Kentucky food workers vote union

Some 300 food workers at Mesa Foods processing plant and 150 workers at Freshpack in Louisville, Kentucky, recently voted to be represented by United Food and Commercial Workers Local 227. The ballots were printed in Arabic, English, Creole, Laotian, and Vietnamese.

"We need to improve unsafe conditions in the plant," said Mesa Foods worker Paula Brown. "I

want the right to refuse to work under hazardous conditions," she said, explaining why she backed the union.

"I want our jobs redesigned before we are all crippled with carpal tunnel syndrome," said union supporter Donna Ruffra. "As a refugee," said Pham Van Tam, "I came here for freedom. I want freedom in the workplace."

Contributors to this week's column include Abby Tilsner in New York City; Jon Flanders, member of International Association of Machinists Local 1145 in Albany, New York; and Maria Hamberg, member of the Food Workers Union at GomanChark in Stockholm.

## LETTERS

### Conspiracy of silence

The anti-immigrant Proposition 187 referendum vote in California is getting a lot of news coverage in Canada. But if you're looking for the full story on this proposed law, you'll have to read the *Militant*.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's French-language radio network had an in-depth report in its news broadcast this morning, October 25. The *Globe and Mail* national newspaper has a lengthy background article in the same day's edition. Neither report mentioned the demonstration of 70,000 opponents of the proposition that took place in Los Angeles on October 16, which is featured on the front page of the October 31 issue of the *Militant*!

This reminds me of their coverage of the historic strike at Caterpillar company in the United States. There too, the Canadian media is carrying out a conspiracy of silence. A correspondent for a monthly Spanish-language newspaper in Montreal is urging his editor to translate and reprint the *Militant* article on the October 16 demonstration.

Roger Annis  
Montreal, Quebec

### Unions and immigrants

Your editorial on the importance of the Los Angeles march of 70,000 in defense of immigrant workers rights and against Proposition 187 was excellent. As a member of the Machinists union at Northwest Airlines, I plan to reprint the piece for my coworkers and use it to gather some more subscriptions.

It is especially important for the labor movement to be involved in fighting for equal rights for immigrants. Not to do so would allow bosses and their parties, the Democrats and Republicans, to drive another wedge between workers on the job and further di-

vide us in the face of company union busting and take-back demands.

The major organizing drives of recent past, and currently in the Los Angeles area are primarily amongst immigrant workers — from the drywallers to Janitors for Justice, and hotel and restaurant workers to Machinists. The entire labor movement must back these organizing efforts and give them real support.

Union meetings and countless on-the-job discussions have taken place around 187. A long discussion took place at my union meeting, which did not lead to an endorsement of the demonstration, but the debate was invaluable for bringing real politics into the union and pointing to the future transformation of the unions that is necessary to combat the employers' and government's attacks.

Mark Friedman  
Los Angeles, California

### Puerto Rico labor laws

Representatives of the capitalist class in Puerto Rico are calling for the repeal of laws that protect workers. The repeal of these laws would drive down the standard of living of workers in Puerto Rico. The greatest impact would be felt by the vast majority of workers who are not covered by union contracts.

"We are killing our industry," said Edgardo Bigas, vice president of the Chamber of Commerce at a luncheon of the Society for Human Resources Management. His list of the laws that should be repealed included those that require employers to give employees 15 days of vacation per year, mandatory bonuses at Christmas and 12 days of sick leave per year.

Following Bigas to the podium was Eduardo Rodríguez, president of human resources of Banco Popular de Puerto Rico, the largest



bank in this U.S. colony. He agreed with the previous speaker and outlined how many aspects of labor law in Puerto Rico dated from the 1940s and were obsolete. The tone of the meeting was that if these laws are not changed then Puerto Rico will be unable to compete in the global economy.

"With current changes in Section 936, in NAFTA and the economic globalization, we need to re-evaluate all the elements of our new working world," said society vice-president María Olmedo. Section 936 is the part of the tax code that grants enormous tax breaks to U.S. companies that have factories in Puerto Rico.

Ron Richards  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

### German elections

The elections for the federal government in Germany on October 16 certainly did not turn out as a surprise. With a narrow majority the conservative coalition of the CDU (Christian Democratic

Union) and the FDP (Free Democratic Party) remained as government under Helmut Kohl for another four years.

The SPD (Social Democratic Party) gained a little — about 3 percent — from the growing discontent about the constantly increasing unemployment and decomposition of social and democratic rights under the rapidly unfolding economic crisis. However, the SPD — especially under its current right-wing trend represented by Rudolf Scharping — does not present any alternative, either against unemployment or in defense of human right, that is, against increasing attacks on immigrants and their expulsion from society.

But the election did reflect the deep social and political gap between the eastern and western parts of Germany, still present five years after the "reunification." Almost 50 percent of east German workers are unemployed or work in temporary transitional programs, many only part-time. Most

factories in the former GDR have been closed down. Some are being sold and their workers face "rationalization" measures and mass firings.

No wonder that an increasing part — currently 20 percent and in some districts more than 50 percent — of the population in the East German federal states turn to the PDS. The Party of Democratic Socialism, successor party of the former GDR ruling party, has transformed itself into a social-reformist party of the oppositional left in East Germany, but it is practically non-existent in the old federal states.

The population of the former GDR by far represents the more class-conscious part of the German workers. However, the confusion about the past development within the so-called "socialist" states of Eastern Europe, leading up to the culmination of the counterrevolution by the establishment of open bourgeois rule in 1989, has left most people paralyzed.

The PDS offers a shelter for many disillusioned eastern German people, displaying solidarity with the victims of the aggressive takeover by capitalism. However, the PDS does not provide a historical, Marxian analysis of the bureaucratic deformation of the former workers state under Stalinist bureaucracy.

What is now urgently needed is a real vanguard capable of connecting the class struggle in east Germany with that of west German workers and of the immigrants.

Dorte Mehl  
Berlin, Germany

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

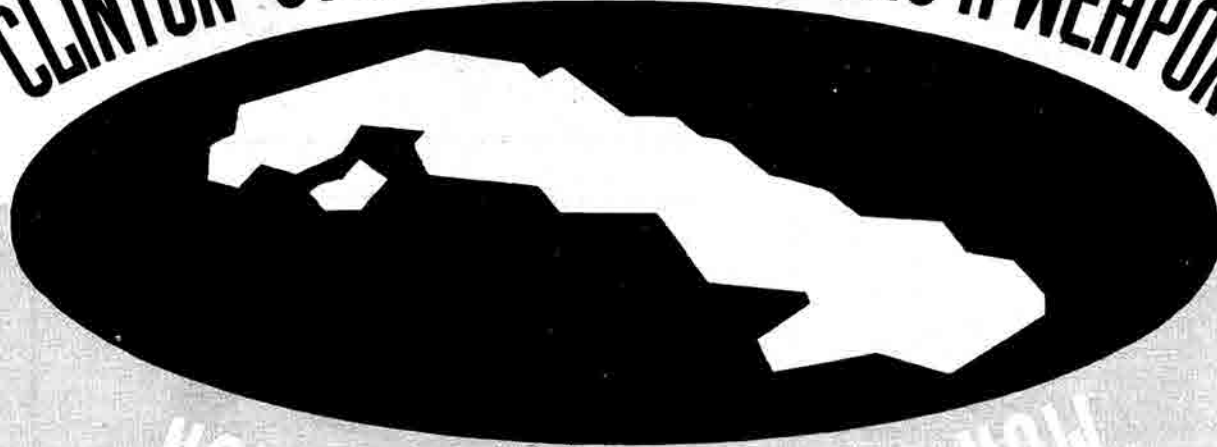


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CLINTON-STOP USING HUNGER AS A WEAPON



NORMALIZE RELATIONS NOW

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12 12PM**

**WELCOME U.S./CUBA FRIENDSHIPMENT CARAVAN  
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